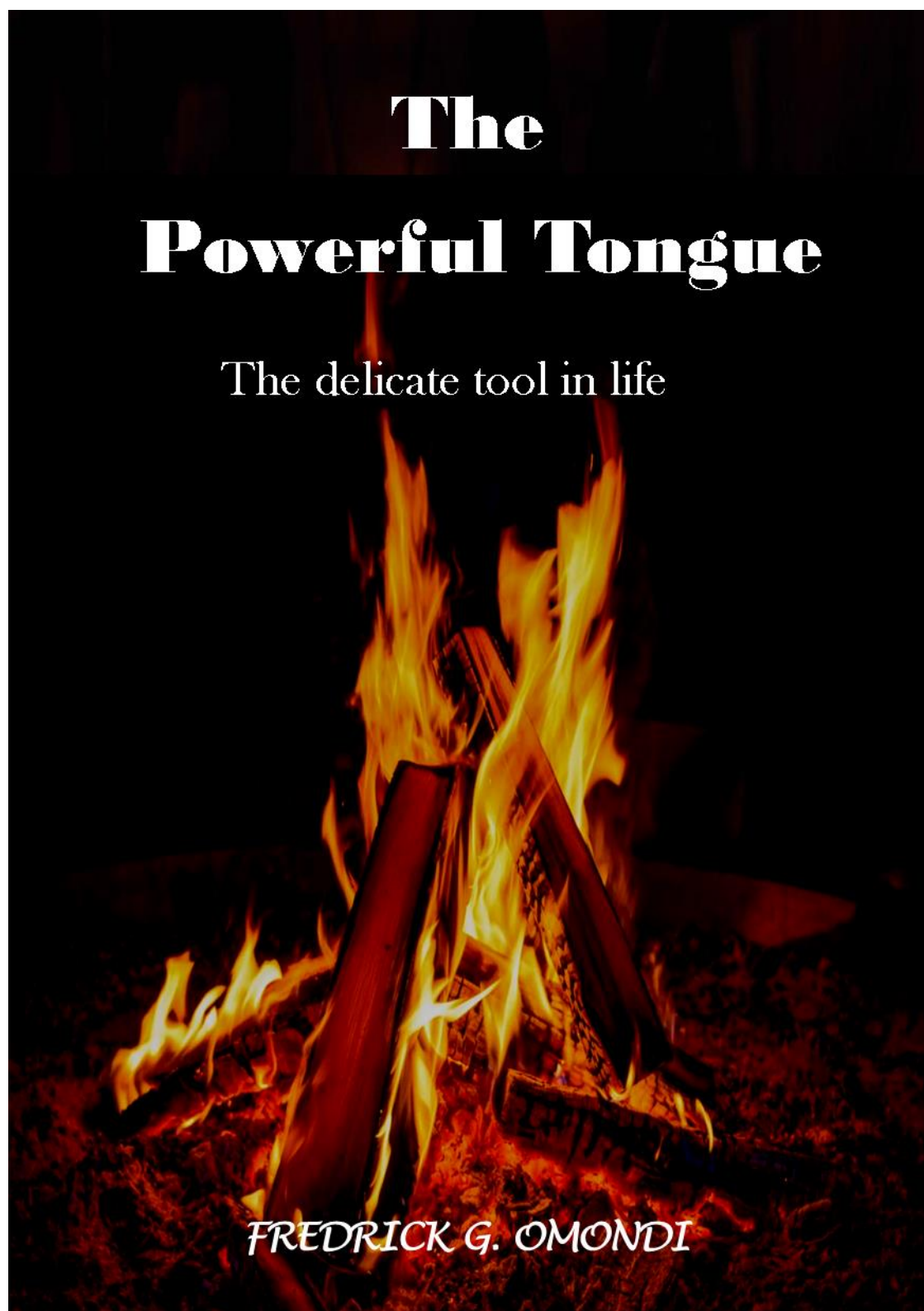
The Powerful Tongue

The delicate tool in life



FREDRICK G. OMONDI

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Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

Many people have said many things in life without much thinking or not thinking about what they were going to say.

That kind of speech by their tongue has affected their lives either positively or negatively, depending on what they said and how they said it.

It is important, very important, not just to say something any how without much thought about it first. It is high time people woke up from their slumber and to grasp the power in their tongues. (Proverbs 18:21) and also come to terms that they will be judged at the end of it all by the Lord God on the judgement day (Matthew 12:36-37).

That should be a great awakening for all of us.

I believe you will not be disappointed in reading this important book and will be giving out a careful speech in life for your benefit.

In this book and in all my other books, I have endeavoured to restrict myself in King James version of the Holy Bible in quotations and the subsequent texts, as it is the best ever translation in English and in case you are uncomfortable with of

don’t despair, as all is well and not lost. Whenever you find I have given a scripture quotation, just go to your Bible (whatever version it is) and read and you will be in the same page with me in your reading.

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Chapter 1	7
The Tongue	
Chapter 2	14
The power of the tongue	
Chapter 3	44
The Tendency of the tongue	
Chapter 4	50
Who can tame the tongue?	
Chapter 5	53
Consequences for not taming it	
Chapter 6	68
The importance of taming it	
Chapter 7	86
The reasonable solution	

Chapter 1

The Tongue

Let me first briefly take you to two scriptures touching on this important subject.

IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called Seas: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind and God saw that it was good.

And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And God said, let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

And let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

And God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth,

And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

And God said, let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

And God created great whales and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God blessed them, saying,

Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

And God said, let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after his kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over cattle, and over all earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon her earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the

sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

THUS the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.

But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 1:1-2:7

MY brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they

turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

James 3:1-6

What a frightening description! But that is the tongue as it is. The tongue is a small organ in our body but is a powerful tool to reckon with. The tongue is fire and we need not play with it lest we are burned alive. The tongue I can say is a dual tool in that it can construct as well as destruct (building up or destroying down) a person's life. So we need to watch out how we handle it, the way one would be very careful when holding a very sharp knife or sharp sword.

In the subsequent chapters, we are going to see in detail more about this amazing tongue.

Chapter 2

The power of the tongue

We now embark on to see for ourselves the power of the tongue as recorded in the scriptures. From the starting point one could be wondering how come such a small organ in one's body be so powerful!?

Well, I believe it all started from the time of creation where we find that God who is a divine person began to create the heaven and the earth and all that is therein both in heaven and on earth. (Genesis chapter 1) You will notice one major incident in each case in creation - that God just spoke and there was a creation. Now that action of God in default translated into man, who God had created in his own image, after his likeness. (Genesis 1:26) Now we know that God is sovereign and Almighty and the same God gave man authority on the earth. (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:20). Now authority goes along with power as well as responsibility or else it is useless without power.

But get to know this that after God doing that, the enemy came and man fell while at the Garden of

Eden. (Genesis 3:1-6). But I thank God that he sent his only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to bring back order to mankind. Through salvation which is in Christ Jesus, a person is restored back to a position of the first man, Adam, before he fell in sin. As we are going to see in the scriptures, the power of the tongue is mostly applicable to the saints only but to some extent with those not born-again but who God has allowed/made them to be in a position of authority over the others. In my third book 'The Youth and Christianity; I have expounded on the subject on authorities.

It is now time that we navigate through the scripture to see what it has to tell us on the power of the tongue.

By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and **a soft tongue breaketh the bone.**

Proverbs 25:15

Surely that is powerful!

And Moses said, Hereby, ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained into Kor'-ah, and all their goods.

They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Numbers 16:28-33

Now that is not a small incident by any standards. Those who had rebelled against the servant of God.

Moses, ended up with that tragic experience by the word of mouth Moses spoke against them.

THEN Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.

And A-ha-zi'-ah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Sa-mar'-i-a, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, inquire of Ba'-al-ze'-bub the god of Ek'-ron whether I shall recover of this disease.

But the angel of the LORD said to E-li'-jah the Tish'-bite, Arise, Go up to meet the messengers of the king of Sa-mar'-i-a, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Ba'-al-ze'-bub the god of Ek'-ron?

Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And E-li'-jah departed.

And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them,

Why are ye now turned back?

And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the

king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not God in Israel, that thou sendest to inquire of Ba'-al-ze'-bub the god of Ek'-ron? Therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

And he said unto them, what manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words?

And they answered him, He was a hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is E-li'-jah the Tish'-bite.

Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of a hill. And he spake unto him,

Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.

And E-li'-jah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty.

And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him,

O man of God thus has the king said. Come down quickly.

And E-li'-jah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty.

And the third captain of the fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before E-li'-jah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, Let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight.

Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.

And the angel of the LORD said unto E-li'-jah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king.

2 Kings 1:1-15

If it were not for the angel of the Lord, all the captains and their fifties would have been totally annihilated. The first two captains were some how proud in their speech.

This third captain seemed to have learnt a lesson and did humble himself before the man of God, I believe God also saw that and allowed his servant Elijah to go to face the king. As for true servants of the Lord, it is that serious, on the issue of what comes out of their tongue, be well informed in advance.

And the men of the city said unto E-li'-jah, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my Lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren.

And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him.

And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not from thence any more death or barren land.

So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of E-li'-sha which he spake.

And he went up from thence unto Beth-el: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up thou bald head.

And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.

2 Kings 2:19-24

BUT a certain man named An-a-ni-as, with Sapph-i-ra his wife, sold a possession,

And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But Peter said, An-a-ni-as, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and keep back part of the price of the land?

While it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why

hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

And An-a-ni-as hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all of them that heard these things.

And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? and she said, Yea, for so much.

Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Acts 5:1-11

It happened in the early church and it can surely happen in the churches today, as in many churches the fear of the Lord has been thrown out of the window and many come to church dressed as they please (as if going to a disco hall) and also how some conduct themselves inside the churches is all quite wanting and don't glorify nor please God. Watch out how you do present yourself in a house of worship and also how you conduct yourself, as it is not just another house, No. I don't think you would want to invite a disaster in your life and therefore I advise you to behave well in the house of God.

And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay my hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

Acts 8:18-24

Simon the sorcerer was a bit lucky as he was given the chance to repent to get God's forgiveness (as he was all along a sinner, and is now but a new convert) but had not fully committed his life to the Lord. If he repented truthfully I believe he did escape God's judgement. It is important that one in sin, in coming to the Lord, to totally surrender to him in faith and not to go to him half-heartedly, leaving a wide door for backsliding.

Simon knew there is something like the power of the tongue by Christians and requested Apostle

Peter to pray to God so that what he had said do not come to pass in his life.

So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Se-le-u'-ci-a; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

And when they were at Sal'-a-mis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

And when they had gone through the isle unto Pa'-phos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-je'-sus:

Which was with the deputy of the country, Ser'-gi-us Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

But El'-y-mas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Then Saul, (who also is called Paul) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him;

And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all

righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Acts 13:4-12

Now that deputy of the country was truly a prudent man, why? Because he wanted to hear the word of God. I do salute him. Many leaders have no time for the word of the Lord in their lives and end up being not good leaders as such, as they don't have the fear of the Lord and have no counsel of the Lord and some even revert to sorcerers and the like for some guidance and power. Too bad for such. This sorcerer met more than his match, thanks to the Lord for giving his Spirit to the saints as he promised. (1 John 4:1-4, John 14:15-17, Acts 1:6-8)

Don’t be surprised by the power of the tongue as evidenced by some in the following scripture but you need to recognize and acknowledge it as the centurion in the next scripture.

And they went into Ca-per’-na-um; and straightway on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.
And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.
And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,
Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.
And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.
And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.
And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, what thing is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority

commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

Mark 1:21-27

And when Jesus was entered into Ca-per'-na-um, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,
And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.
And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.
The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.
For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.
When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.
And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Matthew 8:5-13

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.

But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were in jeopardy.

And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, Master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.

And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! For he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

Luke 8:22-25

Even the disciples wondered at the power of the tongue by their Master, as he just spoke and the wind and the raging water ceased and there was calm. Jesus told them it has to do with having faith in God to do it. Let us look at a similar case below:

And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatic, and sore vexed: for oft times he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him hither to me.

And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

Matthew 17:14-18

Jesus spoke and the devil departed from that man's son.

And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.

Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing there-on, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee hence forward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

Matthew 21:17-19

Just by the words of Jesus the fig tree withered away! Jesus as the Son of God spoke and something happened just as his Father who also spoke and things happened. Christians as the children of God (sons and daughters) they too, have been endowed with power in the tongue and what they speak in faith in the name of the Lord will come to pass as long as it is in God's will and their lives are in tandem with God's word.

One may ask 'How about the tongue of those who are not Christians?', well as for them they can only practice witchcraft by their tongues say to curse or

say a negative thing on someone especially non Christians and the thing can come to pass and that is what witches do and the power involved is the power of Satan. But it will not work (come to pass) if it is against a child of God, save only if not walking right before God. That is why Goliath's curse on David did not affect him (1 Samuel 17:41-50) and that is why God told Balaam not to curse the children of Israel when was told by Balak as they were a blessed lot (Numbers 22:1-13).

Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.
Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.
But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.
Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.
See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Here you find that Jeremiah was called by God to the prophetic ministry and was empowered by God after he complained to him that he could not speak because he was a child. But the Lord did equip him to have the power of the tongue to have things to happen as per the will of God.

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
Which in times past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

When you are called by God you are made by God a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) and you cease to be common but become a servant of the Lord and holy and peculiar as you are sanctified for his work and made ready to perform it satisfactorily for his glory.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

One in Christ Jesus becomes spiritual than carnal in one's doings and has power to do things.

Who then is Paul, and who is A-p-ol'-los, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

I have planted, A-p-ol'-los watered; but God gave the increase.

So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

All called by God in Christ Jesus are servants of the Lord and each has been given some ministry and some gift by the Spirit of God and the one that matters is not them (John 15:1-5) but God himself who makes the difference and is with them, working together with them and they are co-workers with God (Ephesians 4:4-13, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11). And in conclusion it is this:

AND the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep,

And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.

So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my Lord?

Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my Lord.

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Ze-rub'-ba-bel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 4:1-6

And that is the word for you and me who are the servants of the Lord (called by God in Christ Jesus). Now look at these other examples.

And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his first born, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.

Joshua 6:26

Now look at the result of those words by Joshua son of Nun.

And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.
In his days did Hi'-el the Beth'-elite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in A-bi'-ram his first born, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Se'-gub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.

1 Kings 16:33-34

It had to happen. Now look at yet another example.

AND, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Beth-el: and Jer-o-bo'-am stood by the altar to burn incense.
And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Jo-si'-ah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense

upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.

And it came to pass, when king Jer-o-bo'-am heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.

The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign, which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again.

And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.

1 Kings 13:1-6

Now that was just the sign alone, a harbinger of things to come. Now read on.

Moreover the altar that was at Be-thel, and the high place which Jer-o-bo'-am the son of Ne'-bat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove.

And as Jo-si'-ah turned himself, he spied the sepulchers that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

2 Kings 23:15-16

Now both Joshua and the prophet from Judah were men of God (servants of God) and what they said in the Spirit had to come to pass. Let me give you another account before I direct you to other scriptures talking about the power of the tongue.

AND when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.
And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel; and he said,
Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?

Genesis 30:1-2

Now Rachel made three blunders in a row. She envied her sister which is sin, she approached his husband (Jacob) for children yet husbands don't give children and lastly, she gave a threat of dying (I don't know how? probably she thought of committing suicide!!!)
The husband was angry because only God the Creator has power to give children (allow a conception) to take place whence husband and a wife know each other. Read on.

And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.
And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:

And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son.

Genesis 30:22-24

For God to have remembered Rachel, it was just by God's grace and mercy, as she had not repented of her envy and her foolish talk; and that was her undoing, as you are going to see very soon.
Only this time round, she talked sense (verse 24).

And they journeyed from Beth-el; and there was but a little way to come to E'-phrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.
And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.
And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-o'-ni: but his father called him Benjamin.

Genesis 35:16-18

Apart from not repenting to God to ask for forgiveness on what she did and said, she did not cancel what she said by renunciation. The scripture says that what one sows, that shall one reap also.

(Galatians 6:7-8). Rachel had sown two seeds of the flesh (Genesis 30:1) and of the Spirit (Genesis 30:24) and she reaped accordingly. By sowing in the flesh (sin) she gave the enemy an opportunity to operate and you can see that her death came about at child bearing and not any other time and that was not a mere coincident. It is possible for one to curse oneself and therefore we need to be careful and stop speaking words against our lives- verbal curses can be operationalized by negative speech just as a blessing can be operationalized by positive speech. We should avoid some talk like "I am going to die", say when sick, as we sort of are inviting the spirit of death in our life - we want to die. Also talks like "I can't do it' or 'I am going to fail", in the first case you are employing the spirit of laziness and doubt to work in you and you will not try to do what you said you cant do. In the second case, you are inviting the spirit of frustration to work in you such that your efforts towards what you said you were going to fail in, are thwarted and frustrated and surely you end up not succeeding but failing-you after all asked for it. And now the scriptures.

Now this last scripture has but summed it all. The tongue is powerful. But we need not keep quiet, but we need to speak, but speak sense, speak positively, speak soberly. Remember the case of Rachel she received both death and life - her mouth spoke both negatively and positively. If you love to talk, you are going to eat the fruit of your talk / speech. So, what are you and me talking / speaking out?

Chapter 3

The Tendency of the tongue

The tongue has its own tendency which probably could be as a result of the fall of man in the Garden in Eden. Many bad things crop up as the result of the fall. Let us look at the scripture what it has to say.

WHY boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? The goodness of God endureth continually.
Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.
Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah.
Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue.
God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living.
The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him:

Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.

But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.

I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints.

THE fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God.

Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Psalms 52:1-53: 3

In that Psalm and the one that follows it, we see the state of man after the fall in the Garden of Eden in general. Sin had taken toll the life of mankind as a whole and were now bound in mischiefs (bad behaviour) both in talking and in speaking. Man did

not remain the same, his state changed from good to bad to worse. Immediately after the fall, man became prone to sin again and again and that is quite evident in that even Adam and Eve themselves devised mischiefs by their tongues and instead of repenting of their wrong doing (sin) they were busy giving out excuses to God and blaming each other instead, there offspring (the first one Cain) was even worse and killed his brother Abel because of envy and the time of Noah God saw that enough is enough and was determined to destroy the earth's inhabitants. (Genesis 3:1-13; 4:1-9; 6:1-8) The only good thing is that some how in every generation God could find a remnant, even if it was just one person. (Just as in the scriptures the likes of Abel, Enoch, Seth, Enos, Noah, Shem and Japheth and the list has continued to date)

Now you can see what our first scripture is saying in Psalm 52- David; the psalmist being led by the Spirit of God and referring to king Saul as a mighty man and that the goodness of God endured continually (as he David, the son of Jesse) had experienced in his life. He goes further to say about

the sinfulness of man and that deceitful tongue in men, because men have lost righteousness and don't speak the truth and that God shall destroy men (through death of course- Romans 3:23; 6:23). From verse 6 onwards he talks of the life of a righteous man in contrast to a wicked man and in Psalm 53:1-3 he continues to talk of the life of a wicked man who is still in wickedness and has not gone ahead to seek God in repentance and to once again begin to believe and trust only him. He goes on to say that man lacked understanding (surely because their heart had been darkened and corrupted by the entrance of sin). Sin as it is filth and filthy. Let us look at yet another scripture.

Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders.
And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.

Jeremiah 9:4-5

Prophet Jeremiah was talking to the children of Israel and in verse 4 above is touching as an example I believe, on Jacob the son of Isaac who supplanted his brother Esau (Genesis 27) both verses 4 and 5 on neighbours, I believe is a common occurrence among wives today in gossip and backbiting others even slander! Let us look at yet more scriptures.

The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Proverbs 12:6, 18

In each verse, the first sentence speak of the wicked / the foolish but the second sentence in each verse speaks of the upright/righteous/wise.

An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is a burning fire.

Proverbs 16:27

An ungodly man is an evil/wicked man who has no God in his/her life and therefore is lacking in godliness. Look at how such a one is described in this scripture- is ready to sin by his/her lips, by/through the tongue, of course.

A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.
A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

Proverbs 18:6-7

Much has been said here more on the general tendency of the tongue after the fall of man and more so on the ungodly.
I will devote more time in one of the subsequent chapters to deal with this sorry state of affairs, backed by the scriptures and as usual, not by mere talk / words. You will find it interesting and better too for, your dear life.

Chapter 4

Who can tame the tongue?

Now that is a question that all of us need to ask. But we need to refer to the scripture and see what God has to say about it, as he has all the answers in life for you and I revealed only in the Holy Bible which he had inspired.

MY brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.
For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.
Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.
Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.
Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:1-8

James the brother of the Lord was addressing the church and he said that taming the tongue is next to impossible. It is surely a tall order humanly speaking and by our own efforts. Much more is needed than we may think to be able to come to terms in taming our tongue. In the second last two chapters to come, we will be able to see and appreciate the need / importance for us to see that the tongue is tamed to avoid many sorrows and the solution of having our tongues tamed and at last to come under some good control.

But for now, the following chapter immediately after this one, we are going to see the serious

consequences for the failure on our part to tame the tongue. Remember too also as we had read, that this very tongue is the one that sets fire on the course of nature and as if that is not enough, that very tongue is set on fire of hell. (James 3:6 - if I have understood it well, says it that way). It has been said, “Where there is a will, there is a way”. Apostle James could not have addressed this issue in vain.

We will come to see that later in the last chapter (chapter 7)

Chapter 5

Consequences for not taming it

When you come to the consequences for not taming the tongue you are going to find the following examples which serve as a warning to all of us.

And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, saying;

How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.

Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:

Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,

Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Je-phun'-neh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

But your little ones, which ye said should be prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.

But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.

And your children shall wonder in the wilderness forty years and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.

After the number of days in which ye searched the land even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land,

Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD.

But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Je-phun'-neh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.

And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: and the people mourned greatly.

And they rose up early in the morning, and get them up into the top of the mountain saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned.

And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? But it shall not prosper.

Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.

For the A-mal'-ek-ites and the Ca'-na-an-ites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.

But they presumed to go up unto the hilltop: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp;

Then the A-mal'-ek-ites came down, and the Ca'-na-an-ites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hor'-mah.

Numbers 14:26-45

The children of Israel murmured against God and by that God told them by swearing that they will not come unto the promised land but instead will die in the wilderness and only their little ones as well as Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, will he bring into the promised land. The ten spies who brought a bad report upon the promised land and made the children of Israel to murmur against God they too died by the plague.
Efforts by the children of Israel the last minute trying to go face the enemies proved futile because they had already murmured against God.

THEN came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Ka'-desh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

And there was no water for the congregation; and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?

And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? It is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation; and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them

water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them,

Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Numbers 20:1-12

Moses' words gave the impression to the congregation of the children of Israel that they were the ones providing the water to them and not God. But the truth of the matter is that God Himself did the miracle and it was wrong for Moses to presume

to take the credit. God was displeased and told the two that they will not bring that congregation to the promised land. Both Moses and Aaron died and entered not the promised land (Deuteronomy 34:1-8, Numbers 20:22-29).

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, inasmuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.
And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?
But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Be-el'-ze-bub the prince of the devils.
And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:
And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

And if I by Be-el'-ze-bub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgive unto men.

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Matthew 12:22-32, 36-37

From the above one can see that it is really quite a grave matter indeed, because if God forgive not your sins, you are finished, as the case of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Your fate has been completely sealed.

AND Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the E-thi-o'-pi-an woman.

And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all men which were upon the face of the earth)

And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye there unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.

And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and behold, she was leprous.

And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my Lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned.

Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb.

And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.

And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? Let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again.

And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again.

Numbers 12:1-15

Now look at that. Miriam had to be taken out of the camp and remain leprous for seven days before she could be accepted back in the camp because of sin by speaking against Moses the servant of God, and who was also her brother.

Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High.

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and those shalt glorify me.

But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth?

Seeing thou hast been partaker with adulterers.

Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit.

Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son.

These things hast thou done and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such a one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.

Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.

Psalm 50:14-22

Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour will be cut off: him that hath a high look and a proud heart will not suffer.

Psalm 101:5

He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

Proverbs 13:3

A false witness shall not be unpunished; and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

Proverbs 19:5

A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

Proverbs 21:28

A false witness shall not be unpunished; and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

Proverbs 19:9

Now speaking lies is so bad and as the scripture above says it is true one can lose one's life. Let us look at one such incident that occurred concurrently in a span of three hours only.

BUT a certain man named An-a-ni'-as, with Sapph-i'-ra is wife, sold a possession,

And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But Peter said, An-a-ni'-as, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and keep back part of the price of the land?

While it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

And An-a-ni'-as hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost; and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? and she said, Yea, for so much.

Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?

Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.
Then felt she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

Acts 5:1-10

What a spectacle!!! But that is how it was.

Chapter 6

The importance of taming it

We have just concluded seeing the bad consequences for not taming the tongue and now come to the next thing which is that it is important for all of us to tame out tongues. Here we are going to see enormous reasons why we seriously need to tame the tongue.

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

And the people stood beholding.

And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

And saying, if thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, This is the king of the Jews.

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Luke 23:33-43

From the above scripture you can see that one malefactor was careless in his speech and scorned at Jesus while they were on the cross and missed going to paradise. Whereas the other malefactor

was careful in his speech and rebuked his colleague and repented to Jesus of wrong doings asking for forgiveness and Jesus restored him by forgiving him and promising to be with him in paradise that very day! No wonder the scripture in the book of Proverbs says that death and life are in the power of the tongue. (Proverbs 18:19).
Let us look at yet another example.

THEN E-li'-sha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, Tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shek'-el, and two measures of barley for a shek'-el, in the gate of Sa-mar'-i-a.
Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be?
And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.
And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians.

So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shek'-el, and two measures of barley for a shek'-el, according to the word of the LORD.

And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him.

And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shek'-el, and a measure of fine flour for a shek'-el shall be tomorrow about this time in the gate of Sa-mar'-i-a:

And the lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

And so it fell out unto him: for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.

2 Kings 7:1-2, 16-20

In the above case we see yet another careless talker who just speaks for the sake of speaking and the

end result was that he ended dying. May the Lord help us to weigh our words and not to talk just for the sake of talking but to talk sensibly lest our speech boomerang back on us and we are left hurt. The above two examples just underscore the need to tame our tongues which is very important in life.

The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.
A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompense of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.

Proverbs 12:13

He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.
In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

Proverbs 14:2-3

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which betrayeth itself.

Proverbs 27:15-16

It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

Proverbs 25:24

A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterward.

If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

Proverbs 29:11-12

The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.

The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness.

Ecclesiastes 10:12-13

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:31-32

PUT them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work.

To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing meekness unto all men.

Titus 3:1-2

Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh of evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

James 4:11-12

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking's, As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

1 Peter 2:1-2

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that restraineth his lips is wise.

Proverbs 10:19

The tongue need be restrained / tamed otherwise much talking easily result in sin of some sort.

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 21:23

It is self- explanatory.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

That prayer of the psalmist need be also mine and yours too.

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

1 Peter 3:10

Now that is big both as an advice as well as in lettering (all capital letters).

A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterward.

Proverbs 29:11

A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

Proverbs 11:13

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Psalm 34:13

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of

edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Colossians 4:6

All the above two scriptures speak of one thing: what we say to people, that it should be to build and help them (good) and not to destroy them.

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

James 1:26

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

Proverbs 27:15

Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in

heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

Ecclesiastes 5:2

Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.

Proverbs 24:28

The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.

Proverbs 12:13

I SAID, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.

Psalm 39:1

That is a saying by a just man, who do not want to fall into sin and careful enough to tame his tongue. That is powerful. Being just can lead one to do the right thing. If it is so, then the question is how can one become a just man? We will find out in our next chapter which incidentally closes the subject matter of his book.

Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

Psalm 141:3

That need be our prayer to God just as the Psalmist said above.

A SOFT answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.
The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

Proverbs 15:1-2

From the above scripture, do you see what I am seeing? I can see clearly that the wise use their tongues properly and turn away wrath but fools pour out grievous words which is foolishness and stir up trouble.

The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.
Pleasant words are as a honey comb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Proverbs 16:22-23

I can also see clearly from this scripture that it is good to be wise so that one's heart can teach one what to say and how to say a word after the lips have learned it. The lips of our tongues must be 'schooled'. Wise words are sweet to the soul and is health to the bones. Now I love that.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Proverbs 18:21

Here now is a key in this chapter as a whole, in addition to two scriptures we have just read, comparing the just and the wicked and the wise and the foolish. Very soon we are closing this chapter to go to the last chapter in front of us, at least we are heading somewhere and I am starting to see the end of the tunnel by seeing some glimpse of light. There is hope, my dear reader. Now let us look at this one scripture.

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruits.

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Matthew 12:33-35

Now look at that. That you and me can decide to make it work. To tame out tongue. The Lord Jesus Christ was addressing the Pharisees who accorded the Devil credit which was not due to him on casting out of devils as it was not true but can be cast only by the Spirit of God which is an opposing spirit to it and is more powerful and superior. Jesus Christ did refer to them as generation of vipers as they were evil and showed that openly by speaking evil, blaspheming the Holy Spirit by lacking total respect. All people are likely to speak what is in them, in their heart, the tongue is just like its conveyor belt. Even today we have so many

Pharisees in our midst. But they have an option to choose wisely.
There is hope, there is a solution, the choice is yours what you want to be in life.

And king Herod heard of him; (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty, works do show forth themselves in him.
Others said, That it is Eli'-jah. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets.
But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead.
For Herod himself had sent forth, and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison, for He-ro'-di-as' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.
For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.
Therefore He-ro'-di-as had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not:
For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and a holy, and observed him; and when he

heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee;

And when the daughter of the Said He-ro'-di-as came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it to thee.

And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it to thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.

And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison,

And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.

And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.

Mark 6: 14-29

That was a most unfortunate thing to have happened-shading of an innocent blood. John the Baptist was on duty working for the Lord Jesus Christ and rebuking sin. King Herod was not wise to talk to the damsel that way by even going further and swearing to her. Also, he would have known that the request was not from the damsel but from her mother, who was in bad blood with the servant of God and moreover, such powerful words of murder can't come from a small child. Worse still, the king had chosen wrong people in positions in his kingdom who lacked wisdom and could not advise the king appropriately to do what is right before God and the country. When it came to such a serious issue, the king would have refused that evil

request, even if he had sworn. Both the king and the adulterous Herodias worsened the situation and actually tied (unknowingly) ropes on their necks- the blood of John the Baptist lies on their heads. May the Lord help us to think soberly before we talk and furthermore as much as possible to stay away from swearing on any issue. (Ecclesiastes 5:2)

The whole fateful thing would have been avoided by the king if he restrained his mouth and over excitement and probably just congratulated/ commended the damsel for her dance, period. (Proverbs 10:19-20)

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise. The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.

Proverbs 10:19-20

Chapter 7

The reasonable solution

We now have embarked on the last stretch of our discussion on this very important subject. This stretch is now the climax of it all. Now let us peruse together through the scriptures and get to the root bottom of this subject and come out with a solution.

The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgement.

Psalm 37:30

We must be righteous to be able to talk sense.
The mouth of righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

Proverbs 10:11

This verse supports the earlier one above
The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.
The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

Proverbs 10:31-32

Only the just (righteous) are likely to speak sense as compared to the wicked (sinful).

He that speaketh truth showeth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Proverbs 12:17-18

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no tale barer, the strife ceaseth.

Proverbs 26:20

Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another.

Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

Proverbs 25: 9-12

By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and **a soft tongue breaketh the bone.**

Proverbs 25:15

A SOFT answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.
The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

Proverbs 15:1-2

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.
He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

Psalm 15:1-3

There is that speaketh like the piercing of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Proverbs 12:18

The tongue of the wise is the tongue of the just
Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.

Proverbs 16:13

All the above scriptures we have gone through (looked at) have one common denominator: Righteousness and wisdom, righteousness and a well of life, righteousness and acceptance, wisdom and health, righteousness and delightfulness.

All the above point to one thing: Righteous living lead to / is wise living. Then how can one be a just man, a righteous man? How does one get justified or become righteous? Here now comes the needed answers.

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance of God;

To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 3:21-26

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, have a minus in life, but having faith in Jesus Christ brings a plus in one's life which is righteousness.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: **we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

It is true just as above. For you to be a just man, a righteous man, you must believe in Christ Jesus to

be reconciled back to God (1 Timothy 2:5-6, Galatians 3:6-11)

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

1Timothy 2:5-6

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.
Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.
And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.
So, then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.
For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:6-11

The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

Isaiah 50:4

Definitely the above scripture is referring to Jesus Christ who has a learned tongue. To have a learned tongue, one must have Jesus Christ in one's life. One must be with God. To have a learned tongue one must be wise and only one is the source of true wisdom, God. I have to wind up with the following scripture which crowns it all.

IN the year that king Uz-zi'-ah died. I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Above it stood the ser'-a-phim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.
And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.
And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.
Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.
Then flew one of the ser'-a-phim unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:
And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

Isaiah 6:1-7

The Lord God is holy and for one to have an encounter with him one must first repent before one's iniquity be taken away and one's sin purged (by the blood of Jesus Christ) by believing in his

atoning blood which he shed at Calvary. One must see the King by faith. I did tell you earlier that even today we have many Pharisees in our midst. Look at what Isaiah the son of Amos said in verse 5. If you are not saved, you are un done and nothing good can truly come out of you because all the goodness comes from the King, from God. He is both Creator and Maker. He surely will make you a good tree if you choose to by repenting of your sins and believing and trusting in him henceforth. For one to be made by God, repentance is not optional but mandatory.

And now that you have read this book the question that I politely ask you is are you truly saved and had become a child of God and is a new creation in Christ Jesus? (2 Corinthians 5:17). If you are not and want to be so that you don't remain unclean; in faith with all sincerity say this prayer to become a true child of God (a born-again Christian):

Dear Lord Jesus, I come to you today acknowledging that I am a sinner and hereby do repent of all my sins in life. Please do forgive me of all my sins.

Today I believe with all my heart that you died on the cross at Calvary to atone for my sins and rose up again on the third day. I thank you for washing away all my sins today and creating me a new. I ask all this, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Now that you have said faithfully the above prayer, you are now saved and your name written in the book of life in heaven. Join (if you are not in one), a church where they teach the true word of God as per the Holy Bible and live it in practise. Ask the pastor to have you baptized in much water (complete body immersion) as you are a new convert in Jesus Christ. Also ask him/her to pray for you to be totally filled by the Holy Spirit. Do take time to attend all Sunday services and go to Christian fellowships and read and study your Bible daily and praying daily to God thanking him for what he has done to you and asking him to guide you by his Spirit and to protect you. Stay away from all sin and witness to people of your salvation and if at all find you have gone astray be sure to genuinely repent and turn away completely from such behaviour. (1 John 2:1-2).

If you faithfully continue that way and more as you will be taught in the church and in the fellowships, truly God will continue to see you grow in your Christian faith. Have truly meaningful life and now say this prayer of grace:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and forever more. Amen.

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to congratulate and thank you as well, for reading this book. If you do have something to share please write using the address below.

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The Power of the Tongue

Something that should not be underestimated at all in life.

People say many things in life without much thought not knowing the consequences for their speech. Don't he among them. This book is for you, to be well in the know. By reading it you will learn the following:

- How powerful the tongue is
- The tendency of the tongue
- Consequences for not taming the tongue
- Who can tame the tongue
- Importance of taming the tongue
- Reasonable solution on the tongue

The Author Fredrick Geoffrey Omondi is a born- again Christian aged 59 years, married and they have four children. He is the Author of several books among the 'The Christian Walk,' 'The growing faith' 'The World of Wisdom', 'The Servanthood'. He is a preacher and teacher of the word of God and holds a Diploma certificate in Biblical Studies both from Emmaus Bible School and Voice of Prophecy in Nairobi. He is an active life member of the Scripture Union of Kenya and fellowship at an altar of the Ministry of Repentance and Holiness.

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