

October 27, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

1 Pt. 3:10-12 *Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil. (NIV)*

There is no doubt in my mind that one of the results of ‘real life’ is that we allow the LORD of all to be LORD of us. This is the practical application of the truth we have been looking at this year. The experience real and abundant life, we must give up our own life and live in His. The result of that will bring forth real and abundant fruit in our lives. If we love the LORD with all of our heart and soul and strength, then we will begin to see spiritual fruit come forth. This takes some ‘pruning’ in the garden of our souls. And we have a ‘master gardener’ who will do this perfectly. He knows what needs to go and what needs to stay. **John 15:2** *He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. (NIV)* Peter reminds us today that the two most difficult things for us to release into the ‘gardener’s’ hands are our eyes and our speech. If we fix our eyes on Jesus, then we will see what we need to see. If we hear the truth in Him, then we will say what we need to say.

What we look at with our eyes, and what we say with our lips are so very powerful; both for good and for evil. Since our eyes are the windows to our soul, we must be very careful of what we look at and why we are looking. What we bring into our lives will have an effect on us. And the same is true about what we hear and what we say. We have all experienced the verbal attacks of someone else. These words can damage our hearts and many people are struggling today because of words that have been spoken to them or about them. Peter had issues with his speech as well. He was known as the disciple that spoke first and then listened to the Master. Fortunately, he began to be one who listened more as he grew in the LORD, and then spoke the truth of the LORD to others. James, the half-brother of Jesus, put it this way in **James 1:19-20** *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. (NIV)*

Dear LORD, help us today, to listen more and speak less. In Jesus Name, Amen