

## Children of Light (Part 4):

### *LifeSpeak* (4:29-31)

*Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if there is any good word for edification according to the need of the moment, say that, so that it will give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> All bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice.*

## The Practical and Eternal Significance

### James 3:5-6

The tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

**Proverbs 18:21** The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

- Choose Life Over the Laugh

### Proverbs 26:18-19

Just as damaging as a madman shooting a deadly weapon is someone who lies to a friend and then says, "I was only joking."

- Sarcasm, Banter, "Joking"
- Passive Aggressive Jabs

} **What's Underneath the Surface?**

- Gentle Honesty, Reconciliation, Healing

**Proverbs 15:4** A soothing tongue is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.

- (ARP) Advice Requires Permission

**Proverbs 12:15** The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

### Proverbs 9:7-9

Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get an insult in return. Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt. So don't bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you. Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more.

- ARP Shows Wisdom, Humility, Respect, Gentleness, and a Genuine Desire to Help

## • Be Balcony People

- **Balcony People** by Joyce Hetherley
- Evaluators vs Affirmers

### Romans 14:4

Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord's help, they will stand and receive his approval.

### James 4:11-12

Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters [Don't] criticize and judge each other...your job is to obey the law...God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

**I have watched Men obliterate their wife's spirit – right in front of me...**

**I have watched Women utterly disrespect and humiliate their husbands...**

- Belittle their opinions
- Speak Harshly or Down to Them...
- Choose the laugh over life

**I have seen parents destroy a willing heart and spirit in a child...**

- Negativity
- Perfectionism
- Their Own Hurt

**I've seen kids, teenagers, and young adults scorn, mock, and judge their parents...**

- Arrogance
- Disrespect
- Deeply Hurtful

Your spouse, your children, your parents...Everyday the world does all it can to:

- Tear them down
- Destroy their confidence
- Discourage and Dishearten them
- Annihilate their worth and value
- Make them afraid of the future

### 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14-18

**11** Therefore encourage one another and build up one another... **14** We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. **15** See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. **16** Rejoice always; **17** pray without ceasing; **18** in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.