




The Life in Our Lips
Igniting Our Passion for a Ministry of Words


1



The Power of the Tongue | Gentle and Perverse

- Prov. 15:4
 - Tree of life (Prov. 3:18; 11:30; 13:12)
 - A "healing" tree (Rev. 22:2)
 - The ramifications of ruin: brokenness
 - The incredible power of the tongue for building up and tearing down
- Gentle words vs. direct words
 - It's simply false that gentle words never result in hurt or anger (Prov. 27:6), but gentleness never has these things as a goal.

2



The Power of Gracious Words | Spiritual Honey

- Prov. 16:24
 - Holistic life-sweetener (cf. Prov. 4:20-22)
 - The intoxicating power of the tongue—good and bad (Prov. 5:3)
 - The humility required for soul-sweetening affirmation
 - The danger of verbal sweet-n-low
 - "Compliments"
 - Affirmation sandwiches

3

**Asking Ourselves Honest Questions |
Evaluating Our Ministry of Soul-Sweetening**

- In sober-minded self-assessment, how would you evaluate the life-giving nature of your words?
 - Would those who know you best give the same evaluation?
- What is the balance between affirmation and (constructive?) criticism in our interaction with others?
 - How often do we tend to practice "silhouette affirmation," the practice of not saying anything when people are doing well, or things are going well and speaking up only when we have a concern or objection?
- Why do we find it so difficult to affirm others for excellence in "common pool" traits, while affirming others in "specialist pool" traits often comes easily?
- If gracious words give life and are sweetness to the souls of others, are we regularly considering who we can build up through a ministry of affirmation and encouragement?
