



Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

*"Lynx Spider on Osteospermum"
Suzanne Williams Photography*

Don't Say It!

"Do all things without murmurings and disputings". I wish I had done a better job of fulfilling this command of scripture. It is as important as "Thou shalt not steal" or "Thou shalt not bear false witness." God, our God, has spoken it to us by His Spirit. He said, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." It is His Word.

I don't suppose we need definitions of "murmurings" and "disputings", but just in case let's consider a collage of similar words. According to the Greek dictionary these words include grumbling, grudging, discussion, debate and dispute. In Webster's Dictionary of 1828 the word "murmur" leads us again to "grumble", but also includes "to complain" and "to utter discontent". The definition of "dispute" expands our vision to incorporate "argument" and "altercate". If we add these words to our verse of scripture in order to clarify its meaning, it declares "Do all things without murmuring, grumbling, complaining, discussion, debate, argument, and altercation." The New Living Translation reads, "In everything you do, stay away from

complaining and arguing."

This inspired verse of scripture includes the word "everything" or "all". All is a very big word. We understand the word "all" if we say, "Eat all your breakfast," or "Pick up all your clothes," but we would like to skirt the issue and cushion the meaning when we talk about complaining.

*Pleasant words are as an honeycomb,
sweet to the soul, and health to
the bones. Proverbs 16:24*

"Surely, after what 'they' did or said, we are allowed a little space to murmur. Anyway, doesn't murmuring and complaining help you cope with difficulties? There must be a little room to express what we believe and how we feel about life's traumas." Yet, through the Word of God, the eternal Word which does not change, we come face to face with God's principle for successful living. It is "Do all things without murmurings and disputings".

In the writings of the Apostle Paul to the church at Ephesus, our eyes are opened to some of the dangers of murmuring. One of these dangers is bitterness. Bitterness as explained by one author

is to poison yourself and hope “the other guy” suffers. But this is not what will happen! If you poison yourself, you will suffer, and “the other guy” will go free. I don’t know about you, but I want to be “the guy who goes free.” Freedom is always found when we obey the Word of God. And God said, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.”

*Thou art snared with the words
of thy mouth, thou art taken with
the words of thy mouth. Proverbs 6:2*

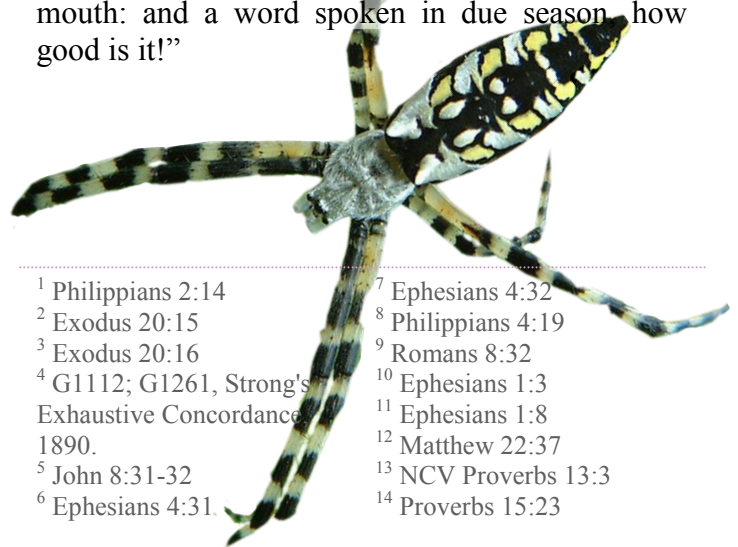
This important verse of scripture notes several appendages of bitterness. These remind us of gang members who travel together for evil purposes. They must be restrained. We do not embrace them as friends, but in obedience to God’s Word, we resist them. We forgo wrath, which encompasses agitated feelings and outbursts of indignation. We lay aside anger that smolders like coals of fire and frequently seeks revenge. We avoid clamorous cries of distress and resist extreme hatred, which maliciously desires to injure others. In their place, we honor kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. These godly characteristics flow from the heart of every Christian who desires to imitate God. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, we embrace these distinctive qualities of the love of God and reject “all bitterness” and every friend of bitterness.

If we meditate on the Apostle Paul’s word on bitterness as written in Ephesians 4:32, we will notice that it says to put away “all bitterness.” Let’s look at this powerful word “all” one more time. It is used over and over again to encourage and bless God’s people. We love God’s promise “to supply all your need.” We rejoice to understand that God will “freely give us all things.” We gladly hear the Holy Spirit assure the church that we are “blessed...with all spiritual blessings.” We are overwhelmed to know that our God has “abounded toward us in all wisdom”. But what about the Word of the Lord that says put

away “all murmuring, all complaining, all bitterness, all wrath, all malice and all evil speaking”? Isn’t this also a blessing of the Lord? If we love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul, we do not want to complain, murmur or speak words of anger and wrath. We continually refuse to utter evil words. We hear God speak lovingly and we imitate Him.

There are many scriptures that confirm this heart-felt challenge and highlight the importance of the words that we speak. The message of each scripture is the same. There are appropriate words, words of life, and there are harmful words. These harmful, evil words promote death and destruction. They may echo a complaint, attack a friend, or reflect our intent to “get even.” No matter what their purpose, they are unacceptable. They bring condemnation into our lives.

In the book of Matthew, Jesus declared that our words could justify us, declare us innocent, and acquit us. The proverbs of Solomon affirm this truth declaring, “Those who are careful about what they say protect their lives, but whoever speaks without thinking will be ruined.” The Amplified Bible enlightens our heart by translating this same verse, “He who guards his mouth keeps his life, but he who opens wide his lips will come to ruin.” Isn’t this adequate proof of the importance of our words? Certainly, we can now declare with confidence, “There are words we do not say.” When we speak God’s words of life we can heartily amen the words of Solomon, “A man hath joy by the answers of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!”



¹ Philippians 2:14

² Exodus 20:15

³ Exodus 20:16

⁴ G1112; G1261, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

1890.

⁵ John 8:31-32

⁶ Ephesians 4:31.

⁷ Ephesians 4:32

⁸ Philippians 4:19

⁹ Romans 8:32

¹⁰ Ephesians 1:3

¹¹ Ephesians 1:8

¹² Matthew 22:37

¹³ NCV Proverbs 13:3

¹⁴ Proverbs 15:23