

**The Forbidden Secret
Part One – Evolution?
Chapter 1 –
Beyond the Incredible**

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(New Zealand)

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A Newsletter for the People of God
October 11, 2025 --- Issue No. 234

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1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren, when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

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Chapter 1 – Beyond the Incredible
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***DNA: artefact of intelligence?* - BEYOND THE INCREDIBLE**

The explorers could hardly believe their eyes.

Here was an unknown city. Martin just stood gaping. “Look!” he shouted. “Just see how all these pieces of machinery fit together!”

“So intricately designed,” responded his companion. “Who could have made them?”

They surveyed the scene in wonder.

“Are you thinking what I’m thinking?” asked Martin.

His companion looked at him. “Our most brilliant modern engineers couldn’t construct these.”

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Fantastic factory assembly lines... control centers... and transport centers... all unimaginably complex.

And packed into an area so tiny. All inside a *simple* cell. What simpleton made up that phrase... “*simple* cell”?

What’s inside your simplest cell?

Look magazine, in its January 16, 1962, issue declared, “The cell is **as complicated as New York City.**”

It is less than one thousandth of an inch long. And the more we study it, the more complex it is found to be.

Think of all the shops in your town. Shelves stacked with goods, display windows, checkout counters, carpets, light fittings, telephones, and so on.

Now add in all the houses. Bedrooms, with beds, sheets, blankets, pillows, reading lamps, wardrobes, dressers, windows, doors. Lounge rooms, with chairs, wall pictures, TVs. Kitchens, sinks, tables, taps for hot and cold water, cupboards, frig., dishwasher, you name it.

Now all the factories with their complicated machinery. The automobiles, delivery trucks, with their pistons, radiators and... Oh, let’s not get into this. It’s endless. Every living human cell, like a city, contains multiplied millions of specially organized parts – just like that.

Your adult body contains as many as 100 trillion of these walled cities. Inside each one is activity which includes energy generators, transport systems, waste disposal systems, structural designers, invasion guards, food factories, protective barriers and communication links within and outside the cell city.

Michael Denton describes it so beautifully:

To grasp the reality... we must magnify a cell a thousand million times until it is twenty kilometers in diameter and resembles a giant airship large enough to cover a great city like London or New York. What we would then see would be an object of unparalleled complexity and adapted design. On the surface of the cell we would see millions of openings, like the portholes of a vast space ship, opening and closing to allow a continual stream of materials to flow in and out. If we were to enter one of these openings, we would find ourselves in a world of supreme technology and bewildering complexity. We would see endless highly organized corridors and conduits branching in every direction away from the perimeter of the cell, some leading to the central memory bank in the nucleus and others to assembly plants and processing units. The nucleus itself would be a vast spherical chamber more than a kilometer in diameter, resembling a geodesic dome inside of which we would see, all neatly stacked together in ordered arrays, the miles of coiled chains of the DNA molecules. A huge range of products and raw materials would shuttle along all the manifold conduits in a highly ordered fashion to and from all the various assembly plants in the outer regions of the cell.

We would wonder at the level of control implicit in the movement of so many objects down so many seemingly endless conduits, all in perfect unison. We would see all around us, in every direction we looked, all sorts of robot-like machines....

What we would be witnessing would be an object resembling an immense automated factory, a factory larger than a city and carrying out almost as many unique functions as all the manufacturing activities of man on earth. (Michael Denton, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*. Bethesda, Maryland: Adler and Adler, Publishers, Inc., 1986, pp. 328-329)

Amazing fact: Did you know that **each cell** in your body has the electrical potential of **1.7 volts**. (And with up to 100 trillion cells, what is the electrical potential of your body? ... you work it out!)

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Your amazing genes

Within the nucleus of that little dot called a cell, 23 pairs of chromosomes are intertwined like a wad of spaghetti. These contain the **master computer called DNA**. And the DNA molecules contain **thousands of genes**.

These genes

- (a) program all inherited characteristics, such as height and personality type.
- (b) guide all growth processes, such as when and how baby teeth are pushed out by adult teeth.
- (c) direct all structural and system details for every body organ.

You and I each came from a single fertilized cell. In the nucleus of that little dot, the master computer (DNA) contained the programming for every aspect of the yet-undeveloped person. Every organ, every nerve, every hair, skin color, hair color, behavioral patterns... are programmed in those amazing tiny chromosomes.

There is automated assembly, perfectly regulated and controlled... miniaturization... and **incredible ingenuity**.

Each cell always “knows”

Were you aware that each and every cell in your body contains ALL the genetic coding for each of the other cells of your body?

There are **instructions** in your cells **on how to** manufacture and reproduce every different part of your body. The words are set out in sentences, and paragraphs and chapters.

- The genes are like sentences.
- Several genes together make a paragraph.
- Many paragraphs of gene clusters make a chapter.
- Many chapters make a book, which we call a chromosome. There are 23 chromosome books to make the whole encyclopedia of instructions.
- An encyclopedia comprises a complete person.

This is duplicated to make an identical copy, so that your body has two encyclopedias – that is, 46 books (chromosomes) in each human cell.

These books contain so many words that the human encyclopedia is more than ten times as long as *Encyclopedia Britannica*. To put this another way, **over a million pages** are needed for all human instructions.

And this DNA message is played back every time a new life is created, because its instructions are obeyed to the last letter.

This one-million-page DNA message book gives complicated technical instructions to make a plant or an animal or a man. They are **more technical than** any man-made computerized code for **making a passenger airliner**, for example. They are more technical than any of the computers on our planet.

Think about this. Could a series of faults in instructions (mutations) make, by accident, such a technical code?

This code, like a Morse code of dots and dashes, **needs to be translated** before it can be used.

The truth is, this DNA code **needed someone who knew the translation** and then made a machine to translate it. That translation machine is included into every cell of your body, as well.

Think about this. Someone was needed to

- (a) **know the code secret** and

(b) **make the code breaker.**

The theory of evolution **cannot** explain how this **information** arose.

As we have just noted, one process which the cell undertakes is the formation of new cells. This incredible process requires the cell to **read itself** and then **reproduce itself**. And can you guess how fast it does this? The complete duplication is accomplished in just a few hours.

Would you like to attempt a job like that? And do it without mistakes.

To repeat: a living cell can do something that no man-made machine can do. It can make a perfect copy of itself in just a few hours!

Now think about this. Somehow, although each cell has such a vast encyclopedia of “blueprints”, yet each cell “knows” its own special job and keeps it. For example, a cell on your skin at the end of your ear has the genetic information to produce a toenail cell... but it doesn't! Aren't you glad?

How small are your genes?

Now, have you stopped to consider that human DNA is infinitely more complex than our computers? As impressive as man-made microchips are, this bio-micro-circuitry is **beyond the incredible**.

The programmed genetic coding for all of earth's 6.8 billion people would take up space less than the size of an aspirin tablet!

A single gene – can you grasp this – is estimated to be between 4 and 50 millionths of an inch across. And 500,000 genes would easily slide around in a hole made by an ordinary pinpoint!

The density of sub-microscopic information

In an interview with Benjamin Wiker, Dr Dean Kenyon, Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University, said:

The number of bits of information stored in a cubic millimeter of tightly packed DNA exceeds, by many orders of magnitude, the information storage capacity of the same volume in any computer's memory.

DNA's information density is 1.9×10^{18} bits per cubic millimeter – by far the highest density of information storage known to humans. (Paper: *A New Scientific Revolution*)

Kenyon observed that this had led many scientists to conclude that living cells were designed by a **superintelligent Agent outside of nature**.

The incredible RNA

The messenger in a cell city is called RNA. Although it looks like DNA, it **has a passport** to leave the nucleus. And just listen to this:

Firstly, in a split second, the master DNA and the messenger RNA intertwine.

Then the DNA instantly imprints a section of its code on the RNA.

Then the DNA separates from the RNA.

Then the RNA rushes to the edge of the city. And there it transfers its code in rapid-fire succession to one enzyme after another.

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This code tells each enzyme to do a particular job somewhere in the larger organism.

The whole mass of cells within a body **somehow cooperate** to act like a fish, a cat, a human, or whatever the total organism is supposed to be.

Protein forming so that DNA could be possible

Here’s a puzzle for you. **DNA cannot form without** pre-existing protein. But **proteins cannot form without** pre-existing DNA!

So, can you answer me this: From where and how did the first protein originate, to facilitate the DNA code structure in each species?

Mathematical probability alone has shown that even if our earth and our universe were billions times trillions of years old, it would not even begin to scratch the odds of the simplest protein molecule forming by chance, much less an entire cell.

All DNA’s interlocking, working parts must be 100% intact

And wonder at this! Inside the cell, one piece of machinery is manufactured, then transported to fit precisely into another waiting piece, then another, and another – each one designed specifically to fit and interact with that particular piece and no other.

We’re talking about many parts of a complex machine, so small you can’t see it with the naked eye!

Then what about this: DNA has to be **totally 100 percent intact** with all its **interlocking, working parts**, before one living cell can even exist. Not only do you need the information in the individual genes. You also need the **information** that enables them to work together. Such masses of information do not emerge from chance random processes.

Our sophisticated machines can do nothing at all unless someone **supplies a program** of code instructions. And the programs must be developed by intelligent human beings.

Suppose I told you that my XP Windows computer, with all its interacting information software, just “happened” – that no one ever designed it?

You might be too polite to say, but I can guess what you’d be thinking.



Each working piece of the machinery is designed to fit and interact precisely with another working piece.

How did this information evolve?

Now here’s the big question. Do you have the answer?: DNA code, more complexly assembled than a computer... **how did this information evolve?** By a fluke?

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I found myself unable to shrug this off. Information is not something that can evolve, step by step, nor even appear suddenly, fully assembled. It first has to be **programmed**.

I would like to introduce to you Dr Stephen C. Meyer, Director and Senior Fellow of the Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture at the Discovery Institute in Seattle. (He is also author of *Darwinism, Design, and Public Education*, and is co-author of *Science and Evidence of Design in the Universe*.) He says:

It's part of our knowledge base that intelligent agents can produce information-rich systems. So, the argument is not based on what we **don't** know, but it is based on what we **do** know about the cause and effect structure of the world.

We know at present there is no naturalistic explanation, no natural cause, that produces information. Not natural selection, not self-organizational processes, not pure chance. But we do know of a cause which is capable of producing information, and that is **intelligence**.

So, when people infer design from the presence of information in DNA, they're effectively making what's called in the historical sciences an **inference to the best explanation**. So when we find an information-rich system, in the cell, in the DNA molecule specifically, we can infer that an **intelligence** played a role in the origin of that system, even if we weren't there to observe the system coming into existence. (DVD, *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*, Illustra Media, 2002)

In 2004, the scientific journal *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* published an article by Dr Meyer, advocating that the complexity of living organisms could only have been deliberately designed – and that biological information could not have arisen from Darwinian evolution.

Like it or not, information has to be an **artefact of intelligence**.

Scientist forced into a U-turn

Dr Dean Kenyon, Professor of Biology (Emeritus) at San Francisco State University, was one of the leading chemical evolution theorists in the world.

He co-authored *Biochemical Predestination*, which claimed that the evolution of life was inevitable... that proteins to produce living cells were formed directly by forces of attraction between their parts... that proteins are just formed together (self-assemble) in chains, directly from amino acids, without any DNA assembly instructions.

His theory was accepted with enthusiasm by the evolutionary scientific community. But within just five years after publishing, Kenyon suddenly had serious doubts.

It began when one of his students asked, “How could the first proteins have been assembled without the help of genetic instructions?” (Proteins were the necessary information to build the first cell.)

And then DNA was discovered. This would prove fatal to Kenyon's molecular evolution theory. Kenyon confesses:

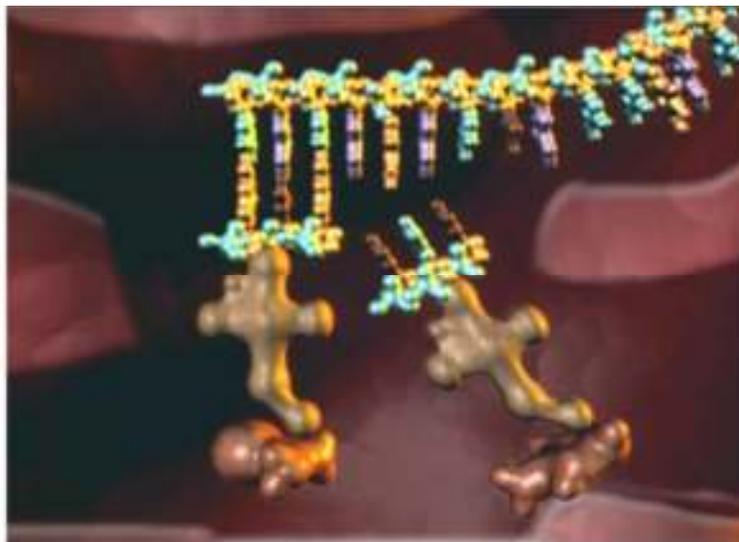
The more I conducted my own studies, including a period of time at NASA-AIMS Research Center, the more it became apparent there were multiple difficulties with the chemical evolution account. And further experimental work showed that amino acids **do not have the ability to order themselves** into any biologically meaningful sequences.

The more I thought about the alternative that was being presented in the criticism, and the enormous problem that all of us who had worked on this field had neglected to address, the problem of **the origin of genetic information itself**, then I really had to re-assess my whole position regarding origins. (*Ibid.*)

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What he now had to address was this: What was the **source** of the biological information in DNA?

If one could get at the origin of the messages, the encoded messages within the living machinery, then you would really be onto something far more intellectually satisfying than this chemical evolution theory. (*Ibid.*)



From Unlocking the Mystery of Life (Illustra Media)

The astonishing fact is that inside every microscopic-sized cell, **machines** work together to accomplish specific jobs and are shepherded by other specially shaped **machines** to precise locations where they are needed.

Learning this, Kenyon exclaimed, “This is absolutely mind-boggling, to perceive at this scale of size, such a finely tuned apparatus, a device, that **bears the marks of intelligent design and manufacture!**”

Observable evidence of a Master Designer

What else can you call this but **observable evidence** of thoughtful, programmed designing by a Superior Mind? Evidence of intelligently organized patterns.

Obviously, such a Designer can only be greater than us. Greater than the creation itself.

Music in genes

Oh, and something else. Did you know this? It was recently discovered that DNA is linked to music!

If you like music, but think that you can't carry a tune, you may be wrong. Respected geneticist, Susumo Ono, believes he's discovered music in genes – particularly human genes, fish genes and rabbit genes. Susumo is a researcher in DNA.

He asked himself, If we were to assign a musical note to each chemical on the DNA strand and string those notes together and play them, what would DNA sound like?

So, he did this – and the result was amazing. He discovered musical **patterns** of notes, that again reveal **intelligence**. Susumo Ono was so astonished that he took his findings to musicians. And musicians, in turn, were astonished to hear echoes of Bach, of Schubert, of Mozart in DNA music.

Using the same formula for converting DNA into music, Dr Ono worked backwards and translated Chopin's funeral march into chemical symbols. It came out **cancer!**

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Skeptics naturally point out that these strands of DNA produce only a string of single notes; it is the musicians who fill in the rhythm and the harmony.

That’s so. But the bottom line is this: Whichever way you look at it, the PATTERNS of single notes testify to **intelligence** as the source of DNA. Certainly, it is not from a blind, accidental force in nature.

Identical to written language

But there’s more, much more. Scientists at Bell Laboratories conducted studies on the **mathematical language** in the DNA molecule.

And what did they find? Its mathematical pattern is identical to that of conversational language.

Concerning DNA, Charles Thaxton states:

A structural identity has been discovered between the genetic message on DNA and the written messages of a human language. (Charles Thaxton, “A New Design Argument,” *Cosmic Pursuit* 1, no. 2, Spring 1998)

Hupert Yockey explains:

There is an identity of structure between DNA (and protein) and written linguistic messages. Since we know by experience that **intelligence** produces written messages, and **no other cause** is known, the implication, according to the abductive method, is that intelligent cause produced DNA and protein. The significance of this result lies in the security of it, for it is much stronger than if the structures were merely similar. We are not dealing with anything like a superficial resemblance between DNA and a written text. We are not saying DNA is like a message. Rather, DNA **is** a message. True design thus returns to biology. (Hubert P. Yockey, “Journal of Theoretic Biology”. Quoted in Charles Thaxton, “A New Design Argument,” *Cosmic Pursuit* 1, no. 2, Spring 1998. Emphasis mine.)

Since **it takes intelligence to write a language**, is it not evident that it took intelligence to write the DNA code?

Intelligently designed ‘sentences’ impressed from the ‘outside’

Dean Kenyon was asked if DNA comes in **intelligently designed ‘sentences’**. “Is it true that when scientists peer into the microscopic world of DNA, they find not mere random arrangements, but **well-written ‘instruction books’?**”

“Yes,” responded Kenyon. “**Masterpieces of immense intricacy and subtlety.**”

“And you argue that these biological ‘sentences’ in DNA could **not** have arisen merely by material means, as evolutionists suggest?” asked the interviewer.

“No,” said Kenyon. “Just as the chemistry and physics of ink and paper do not determine the order of symbols in a printed text, but that order must be impressed on the ink **from the ‘outside’**, so also the **order of the bases**, or **sub-units**, in DNA [adenine, thymine, guanine, and cytosine, or A, T, G, and C as commonly represented] is not determined by the known chemical tendencies of these individual sub-units, but instead appears to have been **impressed from the ‘outside’** on the sub-units **to create just those sequences that make biological sense.**”

It takes three billion (3,000,000,000) of those letters to represent a copy of you.

There is one of those 3-billion-letter messages inside each cell in your body.

The fantastic complexity and orderliness of the DNA code – condensed into an incredibly tiny size – suggests the work of a **brilliant intellect** rather than chance processes. It suggests that **much thought has gone into**

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their design – just as human beings use intelligence to design and construct computers, Jumbo jets, space craft and other intricate equipment.

If radio signals were to be received from outer space, they would be understood as evidence of an intelligent source. Why then should we not regard the message sequence on the DNA molecule as *prima facie* evidence of an intelligent source?



Designed to NOT evolve

But that is not all! Gene code letters have ***built in error protection!***

Genes store information in long strings of DNA, in the form of chemical letters, called A, T, C and G. So that genes can be ***accurately copied***, each gene consists of two parallel strands of DNA held together by links between the code letters of one strand and those of the other strand. The two strands are not identical. That is, A's do not link to A's, and so on. Instead, they are complimentary. A's link to T's; C's always link to G's.

Donail MacDonaill of Trinity College, Dublin, studied that pattern of linkages between letters. And he found that they form a ***parity code*** similar to computer codes, to minimise mistakes during the electronic transfer of information. (*Nature science update*, www.nature.com/nsu September 18, 2002)

Now is the moment of truth. No one would be so naïve as to believe modern electronic ***parity codes*** could have evolved by chance. They were carefully planned by software designers. Could the parity code found in DNA be further evidence that the genetic code was ***deliberately created?***

DNA is designed to maintain accurate copies and ***avoid changes*** in the information it carries. ***This means it was designed to NOT evolve.*** But rather to reproduce its own kind forever. Doesn't this make evolution scientifically impossible? The genes of fruit flies were manipulated to produce flies with no eyes. When these were interbred their offspring also had no eyes. But after several generations' eyes started to reappear due to this fail-safe mechanism, ***reverting back*** to a normal fly. In other words, no evolution!

A miracle – nothing less

Microbiologist Dr Michael Denton challenges the scientific community to address the impossibility of a single cell being thrown together, unless by an occurrence "indistinguishable from a miracle." (Michael Denton, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*. Bethesda, Md.: Adler and Adler, 1986, p. 264)

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Each nucleotide base (or letter) on one DNA strand interlocks with a specific partner on the other strand.

Together they then form a base pair of letters.

*Three pairs of letters form a code for one **amino acid**.*

The order in which the pairs are arranged on a DNA strand determines the information contained in that strand.

Genetic information is contained in the myriad combinations of pairs throughout the length of the DNA molecule.

*A **gene** is a particular sequence of letters which codes for a specific protein.*



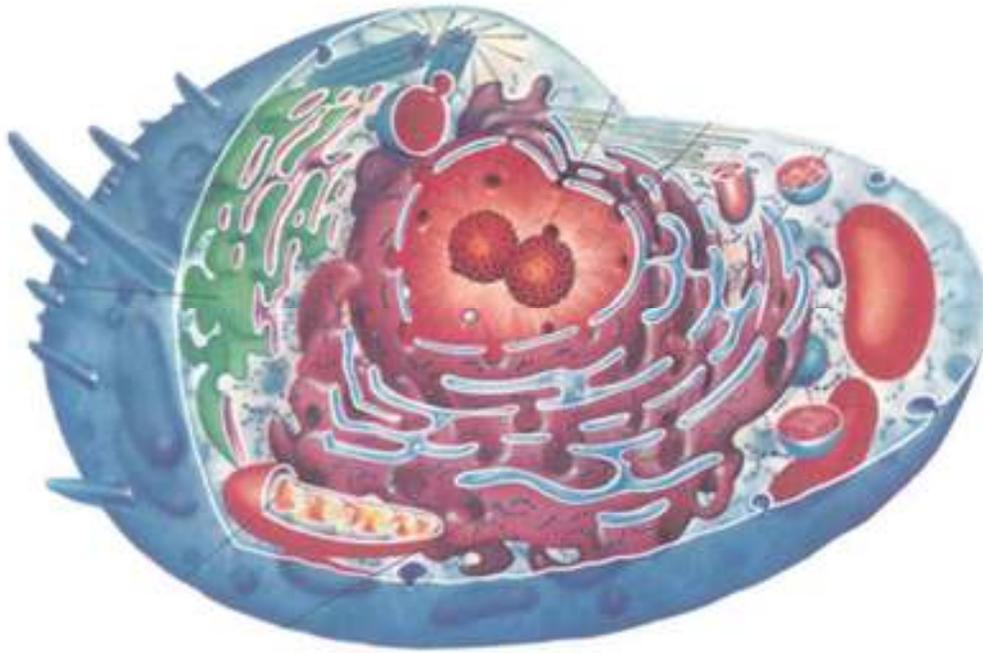
Is it any wonder that mathematicians can have serious doubts about evolution? Mathematician I.L. Cohen, a member of New York Academy of Sciences, writes:

...any physical change of any size, shape or form is strictly the result of purposeful alignment of billions of nucleotides [in the DNA]. Nature or species do not have the capacity to rearrange them nor to add to them... The only way we know for a DNA to be altered is through a meaningful intervention from an outside source of intelligence – one who knows what it is doing, such as our genetic engineers are now performing in the laboratories. (I.L. Cohen, *Darwin Was Wrong; A Study in Probabilities*. New York Research Publications, Inc., 1984, p. 209)

He adds:

...every single concept advanced by the theory of evolution (and amended thereafter) is imaginary as it is not supported by the scientifically established facts of microbiology, fossils, and mathematical probability concepts. Darwin was wrong. (*Ibid.*)

...The theory of evolution may be the worst mistake made in science. (*Ibid.*, p. 210)



The "simple" cell

The Forbidden Secret Part One – Evolution? Chapter 2 – Lottery

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Impossible odds - COULD YOU WIN A \$MILLION LOTTERY A MILLION TIMES?

I used to love betting on horses. What excitement to buy a newspaper, work out a winning system... and listen to the race! To increase the excitement, I might sometimes go to the track. Those last few moments were so tense! Even with reasonable odds, I more often lost.

But just take a look at these odds below! If they don't propel you into outer space, I don't know what will.

First, let me tell you something that's happening inside every cell of your wonderful body this very moment.

Proteins: intelligence with no brains

Proteins are workers inside the cell.

Among other duties, proteins are the *transporters* within the cells. They are the stevedores that lug everything around. Who tells them what, where, when, and how much to carry?

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I will tell you the answer to that one, yet it only presents a bigger question: Another protein (often a constructor) moves over to the transporter, touches him momentarily, and the transporter then knows exactly what to get and how much is needed.

Each protein is carefully assembled by another protein – which was itself assembled only a short time before. It does the assembling job from materials lying around. And it never makes a mistake.

Who taught the protein how to assemble another protein?

Each protein has a very complex structure. It is made up of hundreds of organic amino acids, arranged in a totally complicated order.

There could be only one correct arrangement of each protein – yet there are millions of wrong ways it could be arranged.

The utter randomness of evolution could never come up with the right combination for each protein.

If the *constructor* protein finds he does not have the right amount and combination of amino acids lying around, he tells another protein to bring him some more!

The messenger goes to the edge of the cell and tells the *gatekeeper* (another protein) to bring them in, which he does.

This is going on millions of times a minute in every cell of your body.

Each little protein molecule does the most fabulous things. It carries out complicated tasks which require great intelligence. The problem is there is not a nerve cell anywhere in its body. No brains.

Armies of proteins carry out complicated series of actions. Every step is complex, yet the finished result is always perfect.

I ask you, how can this be done, when different proteins which never meet each other take part in the different steps? As you know, none of the proteins lives very long. And none of them teaches the new proteins they construct how to do the work they are going to do! There are no classroom teachers in the cell, for all the students have **no brains**, yet they know exactly what to do!



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And now consider this: Even if, just one time, evolution could produce one correct protein – how on earth could it keep repeating the fluke again and again, which **it would have to do** in order to replicate that correct protein in making millions more of it?

Something else. The simplest form of DNA complex is a virus. But for a virus to reproduce it needs to enter a living cell to utilize energy from mitochondria and the **protein-producing** ability of the host cell. It is **unable to reproduce on its own**.

Enzymes: mathematical odds

Enzymes are proteins of high molecular weight. Sir Fred Hoyle and Professor Wickramasinghe write:

Biochemical systems are exceedingly complex, so much so, that the chance of their being formed through random shufflings of simple organic molecules is exceedingly minute, to a point where it is insensibly different from zero. (F. Hoyle and C. Wickramasinghe, *Evolution From Space*. Dent, 1981, p. 3)

They explain that there are perhaps 10^{80} (10, followed by 80 zeroes) atoms in the universe and 10^{17} seconds have elapsed since the alleged 'big bang'. The number of independent enzymes necessary for life is about 2,000. The probability of building just one of these enzymes cannot be better than one in 10^{40000} . This outrageously small probability could not be faced, even if the whole universe consisted of organic soup.

If one is not prejudiced either by social beliefs or by a scientific training that life originated on Earth, this simple calculation wipes the idea entirely out of court. (*Ibid*, p. 24)

Fred Hoyle, writing in *New Scientist*, repeated that 2,000 different and very complex enzymes are required for a living organism to exist. Then he added that not a single one of these could be formed by random, shuffling processes in even 20 billion years!

Our existence on earth is as if we had won a million-dollar lottery a million times in a row.

Amino acids: impossible odds

There are 20 amino acids. There are 300 amino acids in a specialized sequence in each medium protein. There are billions upon billions of possible combinations! The right combination from among the 20 amino acids would have to be brought together in the right sequence – **in order to make one usable protein**.

The possible arrangements of the 20 amino acids is 2,500,000,000,000,000,000. If evolutionary theory is true, every protein arrangement in a life form has to be worked out by chance until it works right – first one combination and then another until one is found that works right.

By then the organism will have long died, if it even had been alive! It's becoming embarrassing... The sheer amount of speculation... the **myriad "blind chances"** needed to support the evolution thesis... I need a glass of water!

All need to exist together, instantly!

DNA only works because it has enzymes to help it; enzymes only work because there are protein chains; protein only works because of DNA; DNA only works because it is formed of protein chains. They all have to be there together, immediately, at the same time.

But the enzymes only work because the protein chains are coded in a special sequence by DNA. DNA can only replicate with the help of protein enzymes. We are really in a chicken and egg situation. (E. Ambrose, *The Nature and Origin of the Biological World*, p. 135)

Outmoded theory

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Yes, it appears we are now in the soup with this evolution theory. We are stuck with an outmoded mid-19th century idea that was devised when almost nothing was known about proteins, genetics, or microbiology.

Do experiments suggest we could create life?

Dean Kenyon is a fellow of the Discovery Institute’s Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture, an Intelligent Design think-tank based in Seattle, Washington. He is a Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University. He holds a PhD in biophysics from Stanford University. He has been a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California at Berkeley, a visiting scholar at Trinity College, Oxford University, and a visiting Research Associate at NASA-Ames Research Center.

The following extracts are from an interview he did with Benjamin Wiker.

Wiker: According to the standard materialist account of evolution, billions and billions of years ago there was on earth a kind of chemical “soup” and from this lifeless soup somehow living things arose. What discoveries in particular led you to reject this account?

Kenyon: The standard account has many flaws – not the least of which is the fact that there is no geochemical evidence for the existence of a prebiotic soup!

Wiker: But how do you account for those experiments which supposedly showed that we can create the building blocks of life, amino acids, out of just such a chemical soup?

Kenyon: Stanley Miller’s famous experiment, first performed in the early 1950s, presumably simulated the earth’s primitive atmosphere. Using a mixture of methane, ammonia, molecular hydrogen, and water vapor, and supplying energy with an electric discharge, he produced small amounts of a few amino acids and other substances which occur in living cells.

But less well known is the fact that the dominant trend of the chemistry occurring in these experiments is toward non-biological material – that is, amber gunk which coats the inside of the apparatus.

Moreover, such experiments routinely leave molecular oxygen out of the apparatus even though geological evidence suggests that oxygen may well have been present in the earth’s early atmosphere.

Wiker: Why do they leave oxygen out of such experiments?

Kenyon: If molecular oxygen is present, then it destroys, by oxidation, any biochemicals that form. Of course, we should add that if both hydrogen and oxygen are together in a mixture of gases supplied with electric sparks, the apparatus might explode!

Wiker: So, the Miller-type experiment does not, in this regard, match the actual chemical environment of the early earth?

Kenyon: Correct. In this instance, the oxygen is left out of the experiments because of a requirement of chemical evolution theory, not because we have evidence that it was absent from the primitive atmosphere.

And there are many more difficulties. For example, the energy used to initiate the chemical reactions in these simulation experiments – electric sparks, ultraviolet and other types of radiation, heat – would actually have destroyed the more complex products they presume were created.

The energy sources, rather than being creative, would have interacted with the presumed prebiotic carbon compounds in such a way that the destruction of chemicals would have predominated over their synthesis.

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Finally, we have no plausible naturalistic account of the prebiotic origin of genetic information – that is, of the origin of specific biologically meaningful linear sequences of nucleotides in DNA and RNA.

These are just some of the reasons why I think the empirical case against a chemical evolutionary origin of life is overwhelming.

Life created in the laboratory?

But couldn't life be created in the lab? After all, scientists have created some building blocks of life – amino acids.

Not so fast! Firstly, it has been done by men with intelligence, under artificial laboratory conditions far different from those on the early earth. And secondly, amino acids are only a tiny part of the necessary components for life. It would be like claiming that accidental laboratory production of a speck of black ink proves that the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* randomly evolved.

Why Kenyon had to repudiate evolution

Wiker: I'm taking it that it has not always been this way – that you were not always so skeptical about the claims of evolutionary theory. You were co-author of the best-selling, advanced textbook on chemical evolution in the 1970s.

Kenyon: Yes, that's right.

I did postdoctoral research in Melvin Calvin's lab at the University of California at Berkeley and collaborated there with Gary Steinman in writing *Biochemical Predestination*.

It wasn't until after I taught the evolution course at San Francisco State University for ten years that I began seriously to doubt the evolutionary account.

I had growing doubts about the transition series of fossils and about the chemical evolution experiments – such as Miller's – and became increasingly uncomfortable making the standard evolutionary claims to students because these claims could not be supported in the scientific literature. (Interview by Benjamin Wiker. Paper: *A New Scientific Revolution*)

Some other honest scientists speak up

Evolution theory is scientific? Where is the science? I can assure the reader the American Kennel Club would not certify an **ancestor of your dog** based on evidence such as paleontologists present. (Isaac V. Manly, M.D., Harvard Medical School. *God Made: A Medical Doctor Looks at the Reality*. Joplin, MO.: College Press, 1994, pp. 15,117,228)

I believe that one day the Darwinian myth will be ranked **the greatest deceit** in the history of science. When this happens, many people will pose the question: how did this ever happen? (Saltationist Soren Lovtrup, Professor of Embryology, University of Umea, Sweden. *Darwinism: The Refutation of a Myth*. New York: Chapman Hall, 1987, p.422)

So, we can sleep well tonight. Our children's education is in the good hands and sticky fingers of honest "experts".

Now comes my next question to test the imaginations of these mighty thinkers...

Have a Great Sabbath!

The Number One Problem No One Wants to Talk About

(Copyright 2006) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

When my wife, Linda, died in 2005, a number of things changed in my life. The area I am more aware of is the number one problem facing the country when it comes to health.

Linda weighed 50 lbs. when she died as a result of colon cancer. It was a slow agonizing death, and I am still coming to terms with it to this day. It has been a life altering experience and has made me more aware of cause and effect when it comes to disease and physical health.

The one area Linda regretted when finding out she had cancer was past eating habits. Overall, she ate healthier than most people. She always made sure she ate salad when eating at home or at a restaurant, but if she had one vice it was an addiction to Pepsi. It was difficult for her to stop drinking the liquid drug, although she tried on various occasions without success. Only when she was diagnosed with cancer, did she realize she had to go cold turkey and improve her diet overall.

Linda was always conscious of her weight. She was a petite little gal of 112 lbs. on average and stood 5 feet two inches tall. She looked younger than her 54 years, but cancer eventually aged her by 20-30 years in appearance. When the disease declared open warfare on her body, it deprived her of up to 750 calories a day, regardless of whether she ate or not. She was the equivalent of a skeleton with tracing paper for skin when she died on April 1, 2005.

It never occurred to me how thin I had become. I simply lost my appetite, and many times ate little because Linda couldn't eat. I suffered from severe depression, and this was a major factor in the weight loss I experienced. To this day, I believe physical appearance tells a lot about how a person feels inside.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is to be careful when it comes to physical health and dietary habits. Everyone has vices in this area, but when I take a look at the average American, the physical appearance speaks volumes. I realize when addressing the issue of weight, it is the most uncomfortable subject in the world. It has become taboo to even mention it because it is very personal to people.

By not talking about the subject of obesity, people have resigned themselves to believe it's just the way life is. After all, many people reason that no one has the right to judge. Political correctness has even invaded this area of life. The word "obese" has replaced "fat". Even to say someone is "obese" has been brought into question because it may affect a person's self-esteem. Look for a word change in the near future. I have already heard the phrase "potential obesity" used when describing overweight school children. Are the words "potential change in physical appearance" on the politically correct horizon?

To be brutally honest, a health emergency needs to be declared. If you doubt this, take a look at the average person you see on an average day. Many people are 50, 75 or a hundred pounds overweight. The scale tips the century mark for more people than we realize.

We try to use clothes as a way to hide our physical appearance. Many times, I see men and women look at themselves in the reflection of glass at storefronts and believe that by pulling down a blouse or shirt, they are hiding the extra pounds that everyone else can see. If shadows could speak, what would they say?

No doubt, by now, I have some people squirming, but am I speaking the truth or being judgmental? It is the one area in life that no one wants to talk about, but obesity is a modern-day epidemic. People, however, reason that they can't lose weight but if this is true, why do I not see obese people in Africa due to famine? Without food, weight is not an issue.

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We are literally eating ourselves to death. We have a love affair with hamburgers, fries, colas, pastries, chips, and starchy foods overall. We don't even take the time to walk from our cars into a local McDonald's or Burger King, but order at a drive thru window and eat quickly while driving down the street.

Could it be that our physical appearance is a reflection of our mental state of mind? If my past problem with weight is any indication, I would have to say it is. Linda always mentioned that when she stayed thin, she felt better about herself. I agree wholeheartedly because I have experienced the same thoughts.

We are kidding ourselves if we believe the problem of obesity will go away. Why? Because Americans are addicted to food, and it has become a modern day drug that no one wants to admit they are addicted to. Most people who admit it, will only do it privately and never say the words "I'm fat" out loud, even if they are in a room by themselves. Many people simply shrug their shoulders with a feeling of resignation.

Stress is a contributing factor when it comes to disease, but what we put in our mouths is the number one reason why we suffer from killer diseases. Only when we are diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, do we put on the brakes and decide changes need to be made. Not everyone thinks this way, but if I were to put a percentage on the number of people who take action before an illness occurs, I would guesstimate it would be in the area of 5 percent who will make changes before they are forced to.

Recently, reports were issued that Pepsi and Coke contain Benzene. It is a pesticide put in a modern-day liquid drug. When I recently mentioned this to people in passing, a common response was "Oh, really, I haven't heard that", or "Oh, well, there is always something that will hurt you." Not a single person said "Thanks, for letting me know. I am going to stop drinking it right now." If anyone would have said this, I would have asked if they were feeling OK.

Major disease epidemics threaten to strike the U.S., but how many people know what steps should be taken in order to prevent themselves from being a statistic? Every flu season, people spend hard earned money on doctors, yet won't make necessary personal changes in order to build up their immune systems. When I have mentioned the steps, I've taken to prevent myself from getting a cold, people basically just look at me as if it may work for me, but not for them. It is just one more example of how people do not want to make personal sacrifices.

Many people simply want a pill to help with health or weight problems. I listened to someone ask an employee of a health food store this past week what pill was available that would help her lose weight quickly. She had no interest in exercise or diet change. She walked out after realizing there wasn't a quick fix offered.

Yesterday, when stopping at a convenience store not far from my home, a woman was frustrated with not being able to find the local Pizza Hut. She was extremely obese with an area of fat hanging down to her knees. Four out of the five people in the store next to her were also obese. It didn't take a rocket scientist to understand why she was at least 100 lbs. overweight.

Last week, I witnessed a woman at least 150-200 pounds overweight, consume a large amount of food with a breathing tube attached to her nose. Only by moving sideways was she able to get into the passenger side of the car.

Our immune systems are literally shot. We have the greatest health care system in the world when it comes to accessibility, but we are woefully ignorant of cause and effect.

When it comes to understanding why we are overweight or sick, it is equivalent to trying to add 2 plus to 2 and coming up with 5 as the answer. We do not accept the answers for what they are. Instead, we want solutions that fit within our comfort zones. We reject anything that requires personal sacrifice.

It's hard to believe there was a time when weight wasn't an issue. Who would ever have imagined a hundred years ago that obesity would someday be classified as an epidemic? When a society becomes complacent and apathetic about life overall, an unhealthy state of mind is not the only problem, but an unhealthy physical appearance is evident as well.

See Richard Markland's other articles at:
[Markland, Richard – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Power of Life and Death

(Copyright 2010) by Jamie McNab (England)

You will recollect that we said before that our words, our tongues, and our ability to speak and communicate, really is a gift. Unfortunately, of course, it can be abused, like any other natural force. You could take electricity for example: you can light your house, cook your meals and so on, but wrongly used, electricity can burn and kill. We said in our first discussion, that we should "Guard our Lips". Last week we entitled the message: "Choose Words of Life". Today, we are heading this message as: "Power of Life and Death".

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

"Death and Life are in the power of the tongue..." meaning that the words that we use can bring about, at the most extreme, death or life. "...and those that love it [one translation says, those who rule it] will eat its fruit". There is fruit, there is produce. When you and I are talking, and most of us do an awful lot of talking over our lives; the words that we are speaking are producing some sort of produce, referred to here as fruit. You and I will eat the fruit that we produce with our mouths; and that fruit can be fruit tending to life, or fruit tending to death. It is fairly obvious if it says here that the power of life and death are in the power of the tongue; that means that it is important that we are conscious of and do something with the power that we have in our tongue.

We would not want to be producing death, misery, unhappiness, sickness, and disease, would we? We would rather be speaking positive, and producing good, encouraging, uplifting, and actually bringing goodness, kindness and life into being with our tongues. Given a choice, which one would we choose? Death and life — both are in the power of the tongue. We take our tongues for granted, I suspect, and we just say the first thing that comes into our mind much of the time, and then regret it later. By and large, we just talk, we say what is in our minds and our hearts, and we just blab, blab, blab, and out it comes. In some situations that is probably okay, but there are going to be times when we need to be very careful and thoughtful of, 'What are my words doing to me, what are they doing to others?' We need to be much more aware and alert. **Proverbs 18:20** A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

Our lips, our tongues, and our words are producing. If you and I want to eat good things, to be satisfied by the produce of our lips and our tongue, then it is important that we endeavor to be much more conscious and alert as to what we are doing. What are the habits I have developed when I am wagging my tongue? If I reheard what I said all day today, and all day yesterday, would the words be words that are productive, that tend and lead to life, or would my words be the giveaway of a rather bad heart? Are my words negative, destructive, harmful, and injurious? We cannot probably easily replay the words of the last few hours, last month, last ten years, but God can.

Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

I remember seeing an old black and white movie, taken way back from the 1930s of Adolf Hitler, and you have to say that words can do things. There are some images there, where you see several hundred thousand German soldiers, lined up listening to Mr. Hitler and his words. His voice was almost hypnotic and mesmerizing. That man, through his words, the way that he pronounced them and the energy that he put into them, and the way that he crafted them, turned a nation. It turned the world into the Second World War. It was largely driven by his ability with his words. In Britain, Sir Winston

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Churchill was a man who was well able to choose his words, words that would drive home a message and that would encourage and instill fortitude. Words are important in multiple ways.

Again, Jesus says, "*But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment*". You and I may not recollect the words that we have spoken over the last few hours, or the last twenty years, but God can replay those if He chose to.

I am not sure that He would! It certainly implies that lots of idle words are going to be recorded.

Matthew 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

This depends clearly on what our words were. Certain words will justify us and will be right; and certain words that we have used are going to bring us into serious judgment. "*Every idle word...*" We said before that idle has the meaning of inactive, empty, and non-productive. Have we used any? Of course we have! We have to be cautious about the words that we use, because as it said earlier, death and life are in the power of the tongue; and Jesus says that we are going to be judged by our words. How do you use your tongue?

As we said before, our words can be used to bless another person, to bestow favor on them, as Isaac did to Jacob for example. Or, our words can be used to curse, meaning to assign or devote someone to destruction. James was very careful to say that we should not have blessing and cursing coming out at the same time, from the same opening. How can you be blessing God, and at the same time cursing your fellow man? Yet it is possible. You could even be kneeling before God and talking to Him, praising Him; but at the same time saying, 'that nasty so and so that I work with. It would serve them right if their car caught fire'. God says, 'What is this, you are praising Me, and at the same time you are condemning another person?' So, James tells us that should not be, and we must be careful. We saw Jesus cursing a fig tree, speaking to the fig tree, and it curled up and died. Equally, we saw Him blessing the little children. On both occasions He is using His words, because Jesus knows that words are powerful and important. When He blessed the children, it was not just a nice little religious service, but He was bestowing favor on them. It would have had a real impact; because words are powerful and words are important.

You and I need to be more conscious, and more alert, to the words that we are using, and not be careless. We must think first, and then speak; not speak first, and then think afterwards, 'That was not such a good idea, was it?' Once the words are out, they are pretty much impossible to retract. You might have to apologize, and depending on the situation, the person might accept your apology for being highly offensive. But in many ways, it may be too late. In scripture there is talk of our words being like a razor blade. You take a razor blade and slash somebody's face, it may well heal, but there may be a scar there for the rest of their lives. If we use our tongues wrongly, people may forgive, but quite likely there will be a scar there for life. We have to be very careful.

Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the righteous *studieth* to answer: but the mouth of the wicked *poureth out* evil things.

One translation says 'ponders or meditates', and the impression is that this person is *thinking*. They are thinking of what the most appropriate response is. In fact, is any response actually appropriate or perhaps just being silent might be the best response. If not silence, then what words would be fitly spoken? Versus the wicked person who just blah, blah, blah, just pours it all out with no thought and no care and gets himself into trouble. Sometimes what you hear yourself saying, or what you might hear your family, friends or your neighbors saying, is often a good insight as to what is in their heart. But the *heart of the righteous* takes time, ponders and thinks about what is the best thing, if anything, to say here. Whereas the wicked person or the foolish person just lets it all race out; and this is a person who is rash in their words. Being rash in your words is not advisable.

Proverbs 21:23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

Guarding our mouth does not mean that we do not speak, there are a lot of things that we can talk about depending on our environment and who we are with, and what we are talking about. But a wise person, a prudent person, has some control over their vocal apparatus. We may need to ask ourselves, "Do I need to say this, or should I be a bit cautious in

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this environment, and with these people, at this time?” There is a time for silence, and there is a time for speech. A prudent person who bridles his tongue is careful, and puts a guard on his mouth, and on his tongue. At times silence is the best choice. After all, if death and life are in the power of the tongue, we do not want to be speaking words of death, words that condemn or inflict harm or injury on ourselves or others. Lots of our conversation is friendly chit chat, friendly banter, but you know that there are occasions where what we are saying, or are about to say, is going to make a big difference, and we need to be watchful.

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

Here we are given more advice on how to control our tongue, and being more watchful of how we use our tongue.

The more that we talk, the more risk there is of us transgressing and of some sin creeping in, especially if we are talking about other people. We might start off not too badly, but as we keep on talking, more chit chat, talk, talk, talk, somewhere along the line we are going to get into areas that are not appropriate. *“In the multitude of words....”* That means lots of words, lots of talking, and lots of ‘my opinion is this and my opinion is that, and my opinion is whatever’. Somewhere along the line, our opinions are going to get us into trouble. *“But he who restrains his lips....”* We might say to ourselves, “Well, I think I have said enough here, I think I will leave off at this point, and I will say no more. The person who is careful about how much he says, and to whom he says it, is a wise person.

Proverbs 10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is worth little. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of wisdom.

The tongue is important, and our words are important. It can add value to a situation, or it can get us into serious trouble. Probably most of us, I suspect, have been in that position of saying something and then thinking, ‘Oh that was not too bright’, and then we start scrambling, backing off and wriggling, and perhaps even starting to lie to get out of the trouble we got into. Really, all of that could have been prevented if we had restrained our lips, rather than just blurting it all out. It is better to think, study, meditate on how to answer, than to just blast away and regret it after the event.

Ecclesiastes 5:1 Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil.

In our day and age, that would be talking complete nonsense to God in prayer, and that would not be a terribly attractive sacrifice to Him. We must not be too quick to talk. Turn off *and listen* and learn something.

Ecclesiastes 5: 2 Do not be rash with your mouth and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.

This is a warning, that when you are coming before God, we must not be rash. Study how to answer. We are not heard because of our much speaking. Jesus said that we are heard because of what is right, not just because we keep on saying and saying it. And if we cannot say it often enough, we will get a few other people from our email chain to say it with us. We are not supposed to be trying to convince God to do good; God is already disposed to show us favor.

Ecclesiastes 5:3 For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool’s voice is known by his many words.

How do you recognize a fool? They will be talking all of the time!

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed— better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

We do not vow these days, but I guess we are tempted to make commitments to God, which are statements of intent akin to vows in olden days. We are to be careful. It does not say, ‘Do not do it’, it just says, ‘Are you aware of the situation that you are getting into here?’ What if you and I tell God that we are going to turn over a new leaf, for the four thousandth time? We say, “I am committing now to pray every day before I start my day; I am going to pray for thirty minutes every

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morning”. That would be tantamount to a vow, in spirit, because you are committing and making a promise. The scripture says that you are better not to present that as a promise, unless you intend to actually deliver on it. Or do you say, “Well God I am going to become more spiritual, so I am going to fast once a month from now on”? Or “I am going to read my Bible through every twelve months without fail”. Well, God knows that we are frail, of course, and He always forgives. But God takes His words seriously. God is true to His word and thank heavens for that. If He says something then you and I can depend on it, and every generation throughout all eternity can. God’s word is good, and God’s word is true. God says what He means, God means what He says, and He does it. This is how God likes communications to be. For you and I to vow to God, to commit to God, to make promises to God, and not to deliver on them, well as it says here we must do it. Again, *“When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed— better not to vow than to vow and not pay”*.

Ecclesiastes 5:6 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands?

No harm in saying to God that you would like to do better, and try really hard, and that you would appreciate Him supporting and helping you. Asking God to help you to be alert and aware, and to please grant you more of His Spirit. ‘I am going to really try very hard this time’. But if you say, ‘I hereby commit thirty minutes every morning come hell or high water’, and then three days later you are still snoring in bed, sleeping through the alarm clock. We must be careful in what we say, and we must not be rash in our words.

Our words are very powerful and very important; and the more that we realize this then we will be more careful how we use them.

James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.

James is saying that a person who does not bridle his tongue is pathetic, meaningless, empty, and vain. Because if we do not bridle our tongue then we blew it; it is that important. You and I think that we are sort of religious in a sense, well we are church-going people, and we read our Bibles at least now and then, and we pray when it is convenient, and we do not swear too much really, and by and large, etc, etc. James quite bluntly says, ‘Quite honestly you lot out there, if you do not bridle your tongue you are deceiving yourselves and your religion is useless’.

Notice the heart and mouth connection. If you do not bridle *your tongue* you are deceiving your *heart*. It is up to you and me to restrain our tongues. Bridle can be translated “hold in check,” or “restrain,” and that is something that we can practice every single day. We do not have to wait for some special time to arrive to bridle our tongue. We can bridle our tongue today and the day after. Sometimes it is general conversation, just chit chat, and we might be fairly open and relaxed, and more or less safe. Sometimes it can be a heated conversation where we are arguing with somebody over something, and that is where there is more danger of us saying things that might not be entirely appropriate. Sometimes, it can be when we are alone, and we can be talking at things. Like, ‘that lousy motor car of mine, it is always letting me down, it is a lump of junk’. Then you go and kick it a few times. Or, watching television, and on comes your favorite politician, and here is your chance to offer him or her some advice on their politics, and on their teachings. You tell them what you think about how they are spending your money, about their families, how they are spending their time. You criticize their nose, and shape of their teeth. You sit there in your chair shouting abuse at the television. This would be wrong because you are abusing your tongue, and you are saying words which are inappropriate. The fact that the person does not hear you does not change the fact that it is wrong words that you are saying. We have no right to say them, and they would probably be harming you. You might be alone in your car, driving along, and then some so-called maniac cuts you off. Well, you might say some words, and those words might be entirely inappropriate and rash words that you are better off not having said. Just because somebody cuts you off does not give you permission from on high to say lots of rude and nasty words about them and their parentage, and whether they knew their father. We have to be more cautious and control our words at all times.

Some people say, “I am seventy years old today, and that is it, I am now on borrowed time”. Well quite honestly, if you believe in your heart that you are on borrowed time at seventy, then your days may be short. There is no scripture that

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says that you and I are guaranteed to get seventy years, and no more. We have a message up on the website on Psalms 90 and 91 that covers that. We have heard a minister say that, "Well, brethren, I am seventy now, I guess I do not know how long I will be around, I am now on borrowed time". Those are words that are likely to have an effect.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

If we take Paul at his word, he is telling us not to let any corrupt, nasty, horrible words proceed from our mouth. But on the other hand, the very opposite: your words should be good and they should build up; so that they can impart grace, which means charm, delight or favor to the hearers. Your words should be very attractive, almost like good music, or pleasant perfume.

Your words should not be nasty, vindictive, horrible and destructive.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Put these away, he says, they do not belong. The Amplified translation says, "*Let all bitterness, indignation, wrath, passion, rage, bad temper, resentment, anger, animosity, quarrelling, brawling, clamor, contention and slander, and evil speaking, abusive or blasphemous language, be banished from you*".

This means that you and I have to put these away. We must restrain our lips, and not let these damaging words come out. God is not going to stop the words coming out, that is our responsibility. We have the tongue, and we have the brain, and there is a connection between the two, and it is up to us to exercise restraint over our tongue so that we let no corrupt communication to proceed, and it must be banished from us. It says rage, bad temper, animosity towards people. And even if it is towards people on the television, those politicians where we might strongly hate their objectives, and we might totally disagree with their plans, especially pro-abortion and pro-homosexuality, and all manner of things like that. We are entitled to seriously dispute their ideas, especially when they go contrary to the word of God, but that does not entitle us to sit in our chair and shout abuse at them. 'You sorry no good... you moron, what an idiotic guy are you! Where were you drug up?' It says let no corrupt communication, no bitterness, anger, clamor, etc. So, we are not free to sit in our room and just shout abuse at the television, with hatred and venom in our heart; that is not proper conduct. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and you or I will eat the fruits of what we say. If you want to shout and blaspheme or do things of that nature, or send e-mails saying something similar, that is dangerous. We saw previously, how speaking is so important, and one of the ways that it is so important is that our words, what we say, is what *releases our faith*.

Mark 11:20-21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away". Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away".

'The fig tree that You spoke to and assigned to destruction, it is gone, all the branches and the leaves have dropped off'. It is dead, because Jesus spoke to it.

Mark 11:22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God".

Sometimes we think that was Jesus, because after all He was the Son of God in the flesh, and walked on water, and so He can do things like that.

Mark 11:23 "For assuredly, I say to you, *whoever* says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things *he* says will be done, he will have whatever *he* says.

Jesus makes it very plain that if we speak to a mountain, we believe, and we do not doubt in our heart, then we will have *what we say*. A mountain is representative of something big in our lives, something that we could not naturally move by ourselves. It might be some financial problem, health crisis, a problem with our job, or a family difficulty; something that you and I do not have the power or the wherewithal to move. Then what we do is go to God, discuss it with God, and

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check out what His word says. Because faith, believing in our heart, comes from hearing His word; so we go to the word and find out what it says, we believe and then we speak to the mountain.

We release our faith, our belief with our words. It says here "...*he will have whatever he says.*" Not whatever he just believes. It does not say to talk to God and say, 'Oh God please move the mountain'. God says, 'Listen, I am telling *you* to speak to the mountain. Do not tell *Me* to speak to the mountain that is your place'. God is saying here whoever speaks to the mountain and follows the instructions.

All of us, from time to time, say that our prayers do not work. I am praying to God but nothing is happening. Well, there may be some conflict here, we may be *praying* the right thing; we have God's word and His promise on it, but then we end up *saying* something different. So, we are praying one thing, and saying something else. The scripture says that we will have what we say, not **just** what we pray about. We cannot just pray to God and say, 'It is in Your word, I am praying and asking You to deliver it, thank you very much, amen'. That is a good prayer perhaps, but then what are we saying *afterwards*? The mountain is not going, and it is getting bigger and bigger. Why is that? It is what we say that we get. We may be praying to God for healing, and somebody asks us how we are doing, and we tell them it is getting worse. 'I do not think that I am going to get better; I think that my days are numbered. I have actually been looking at coffins on the internet recently'. Wow! They are not words of faith. Well, the words do not line up with the prayer; and Jesus told us that we would have whatever we say. Of course, our mouth has to be involved, that is how we express and release our faith.

Romans 10:8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" [that is, the word of faith which we preach] ...

Where is the word of faith? It is in two places. It is in your mouth as it says here, and it is in your heart. Again, we see the heart and mouth connection. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, or the mouth leaks. The word of faith is to be found in your mouth, and in your heart.

Romans 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart, one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

It might be to do with salvation, like Paul is implying here, but it is exactly the same with healing, or financial support, or any other thing that you and I require from God. With the heart we believe, and with the mouth confession is made, and we are saying what we believe. You have to believe and say, you do not just believe. It is incomplete to just believe and remain silent. Faith speaks, and we say what we believe. It has to be in two places, in our heart and in our mouth. In our mouth does not mean chewing a bible page; it means that we are talking, we are speaking. For example, we speak to the mountain. Our words are powerful, they are life and death.

Mark 5: 21-24 Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live". So, Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.

So Jairus took some effort here, and he actually probably had to fight his way through; and he probably used his elbows and his feet and kicked his way through. He was not going to wait at home piously saying, 'Well if it is God's will to heal my little daughter, He will send Jesus. No, that is not going to happen, so I am going to find Jesus, and lay my hands on Him and get Him to come'. This is a good example of an active faith. When he gets there, he says to Jesus, 'If you come and do this, she will live,' which is a statement of faith. 'I know that if you do it, she will live'. Of course, Jesus said, 'Fine, lead on'.

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Then there is a bit of a delay because of the woman with the issue of blood; and we covered that the week before. She made her statement of faith, and she grabbed hold of Jesus' garment and she was healed. Then at the end of that process, some time had elapsed, perhaps an hour or so, Jesus went to Jairus' home.

Mark 5:35 While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

They said it was too late, end of story. But what did Jesus do?

Mark 5:36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."

As soon as Jesus heard them say that to Jairus, He turned around and said, "*Do not be afraid; only believe.*" So Jesus said to him, 'Say nothing Jairus, do not agree with them; do not open your mouth and say that "it is too late, if only you would have come quicker, Jesus."' He may have done this otherwise, but Jesus stopped him in his tracks and said, 'Do not be afraid, do not change your belief'. If Jairus would have opened his mouth and said the wrong things, well the power of death and life are in the tongue. Jesus knew that words were important and He told Jairus to say nothing, but to believe.

Mark 5:37-40 And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying.

He put them all out. Jesus does not like unbelief, and in fact it could affect even the Lord Jesus. Mark 6 talks about Jesus not being able to do any mighty works in His own hometown, and He marvels *at their unbelief*. An atmosphere of unbelief can affect even the Lord Jesus Christ. So He said to Jairus, 'Say nothing, do not open your mouth, you just believe'. And Jairus zipped his lips and kept on believing. I guess that his faith was probably rocking a bit, but Jesus probably looked at him rather sternly and said, "Believe!"

Mark 5:41-42 Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." Immediately, the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.

There is a lesson in here for us. If you and I have gone to God, and we have His word, then we have to be careful that our words line up with what we believe. If Jairus had said, "Oh it is too late, what can we do? I guess that would have been the end of the little girl. For you and I, if we cannot say something positive about what we believe in, then we are better off to say nothing. If you think about it Satan, and his demons, his principalities and powers, are on this earth. There is no evidence that they can read our minds; he is not like God, he is not omniscient. He cannot just peer into your brain and read what you are up to. But once we speak, they can hear and know. We are revealing our secrets to the enemy by what we say. So sometimes, it is better to say nothing. You do not want Satan to hear about your fears and anxieties. But if he hears you just talking words of faith that is all that he can hear.

We would not want to give the enemy any help. Back in the Second World War, in Britain, there were lots of posters up everywhere giving people support, advice, and some warnings. One of the warnings was about the danger of loose talk. There were German spies in Britain, and they would speak perfect English, and they would be dressed like ordinary folk in this country and would be listening. They would be in pubs, and down near the docks, and mixing with soldiers off-duty. You do not want to be saying things that could give away secrets to the enemy. The posters said things like, "Careless talk costs lives". You'd see a poster of a couple of men talking in the pub, and behind was a caricature of Adolf Hitler, with big ears listening. Other posters were: "Tittle tattle lost the battle," "Talk kills," "Be like Dad, keep Mum".

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Satan is our enemy, and you and I have to be very careful what we say. If we believe God's word, then let us repeat God's word, and not just say our anxieties and our fears. I guess we have not always realized fully the influence of our tongue on ourselves, and on other people.

Scripture uses a particular symbol to picture the words of our mouth. What item would the scriptures use to symbolize a picture of the words of our mouth? Something like a bullet, which would be a powerful weapon? How about a rubber hammer, or a tickling stick, or a baby's pacifier? Well no, one symbol that the Bible uses to describe the words of God's mouth, and equally the words of our mouth, is found in the book of Revelation:

Revelation 19:19-21 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

He who sat on the horse is the Lord Jesus Christ, and it says the armies were killed with the sword which proceeded from His mouth. Now, that is symbolic; and I do not think for a moment that the Lord Jesus was sitting on a horse with this five foot long sharp object poking out of His mouth. It is talking of His words being described as a sword; because a sword is an offensive weapon, and with it you would kill. The Lord Jesus is going to utter instructions with His words, to destroy multiple millions of soldiers who are fighting against Him, and who are clearly under the power of Satan and the demons.

Revelation 2:12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword...

We are talking of the Lord Jesus, and He has a two-edged sword; and I wonder where it is.

Revelation 2:13-14, 16 ... know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed 'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with *the sword of My mouth*."

So, the Lord Jesus is warning here, that He has a two-edged sword, and that it is sharp. It is the sword of His mouth; and it is His words. When Jesus curses, we know what happens; and when Jesus blesses, we know what happens. Jesus' words work.

We are talking about the power of life and death, and our tongues. The picture that the scriptures use for the words of our mouth, is the sword; not some little rubber duck that you poke at people.

Our words are swords, and sharp swords at that.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is likened, as back in Revelation, to the sharpest sword you will find. God's word is a sharp two-edged sword in His mouth. But, of course, you and I can use God's words too, in which case they become a sharp sword in our mouths. It says that it is a two-edged sword; and that might be referring to the fact that the words can bless and the words can curse, there are two edges to it. Back in Deuteronomy 28, we have the "Blessing and the Cursing" chapter. It says, 'If you obey me and keep my word, then blessings will come on you, and overtake you. But if you do not keep my word, then all these curses shall come on you, and overtake you'. In God's word, He tells us that He will bless or curse us. The sword has two edges, but it is not just God's sword; He has given it to us.

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Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

That sounds good, and we can get some strength and power from this scripture.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. So, you and I will need armor.

Ephesians 6:12-13 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

You and I want to stand, and to be standing when the battle is over.

Ephesians 6:14-17 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and *the sword of the Spirit*, which is *the word of God*.

So, you liken God's Word to a sword, and it says that you and I are to take the "*sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God....*"

You and I are to take the sword, and to use it against the powers of darkness. How do we do this? Well, it is a sword when it is *in our mouth*, and we speak it, we say it. It is powerful, and we are speaking to our mountain.

It says back in Proverbs, that death and life are in the power of the tongue. The Word of God is even more powerful when we speak it. If we do not speak it then it is not really working. The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, is in our mouth. You and I need to have the Word of God on our tongue and speak it like Jesus did.

Matthew 4:4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "*It is written*, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

How did Jesus respond to a spiritual attack? He used the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. He did not just think happy thoughts, but He used scripture, and He quoted it directly to Satan. This is taking the Word of God as the sword of the Spirit. When He did this, it caused Satan to back off.

Matthew 4:5-7 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "*It is written again*, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

Jesus quoted scripture to Satan, He spoke words; and in this case Jesus spoke the words which are the words of God, the sword of the Spirit. Of course, if Jesus had to do this to fight off Satan, do we have some other route to follow? No, we need to do the same; and we should know the scriptures well enough that it is a sword in our hand. If we do not know the scripture very well, then we are going to be handicapped. We may have the armor on, the breastplate of righteousness on, have our feet shod with the gospel of peace, and perhaps have on the belt of truth, but you do not have a sword because we do not know God's Word well enough. Jesus was able to instantly pull out of His memory the appropriate verse and say, "No Satan, it is written".

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then

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Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For *it is written*, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Jesus sets us a good example. He is in a battle here, and as Paul says, "*we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers and rulers of the darkness of this age, and wicked spirits in heavenly places*".

Therefore, he says that we need to take up the whole armor of God, every bit of it, all of it; and one bit of it is the sword of the Spirit. The sword is a weapon. God's Word is a weapon, and actually your word and my word is similar. Again, in our tongue is the power of death and life. Actually, when we take God's Word in our mouths, and apply it, that is a pretty powerful sword. Jesus said, "It is written." For you and me to think that we can do it some other way is being a bit naive, and Jesus set us a good example. This is one reason why we should take the time to know God's Word. We do not have any good excuses for not knowing God's Word. We probably all have plenty of copies of the Bible, in many different versions. Most of us have plenty of places where God's Word resides. The one place it needs to be is off the page and into our minds. In the book of Psalms it says, "*Thy word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you*". You and I need to have God's Word available, and then we can use our sword in combat. God's Word is living, it is powerful, and it is sharper than any other two-edged sword.

Your words and my words are powerful words. Death and life are in the power of our tongue. We can choose to bless, or we can choose to curse. We can choose to employ the Word of God, as a really sharp sword, or we can choose to ignore it. You and I need to learn how to use and control our tongue. We can do harm, or we can do good; and we can build up, or we can tear down.

This has been our third message on this. We can take this message and do nothing about it, and just file it away, or we can review what the Bible says about our tongues, and our words and what they can achieve. Then you and I can make changes, if necessary. It says that the humble person makes adjustments, but the proud person makes excuses — because they do not need to change, do they? But you and I hopefully do recognize that there are things that we can improve on in the way that we use our tongues.

Psalms 34:11-12 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good?

I guess most of us would be in that category, and would like a long life with many days, especially a long life where we see good. This would be very attractive as an offering. Who is the man or woman that is going to see that?

Psalms 34:13 *Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.*

This is the first thing that he says. If you want to enjoy a long life and see good things, then you need to keep your tongue from evil.

Psalms 34:14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

And even that might be referring to seeking peace with your words and seek to do good with your words. If you want to enjoy many days and see good things, if you desire life, then keep control of your tongue. Like we said before, the English word "desires life" comes from the Hebrew expression "chofetz chaim". There was a Jewish rabbi a century or so back, who wrote a book on all of the places in scripture where it talks about warnings of our words. He particularly focused on not being tale-bearers, not gossiping, and not slandering. There are many, many things that scripture says that you and I have no business talking about. He was then nicknamed the "chofetz chaim," the man who desires life; because his book was all about watching your tongue if you desire life. For you and I it is the same; we need to watch our tongues. This does not mean that your task is to go out and listen to everybody else and critique their words and their conversations. The message is for me to me, and for you to you. How are we doing individually with our tongues?

Proverbs 18:20 A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth, From the produce of his lips he shall be filled.

The produce of our lips are the words that we are using.

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

I guess that means the fruit of death or the fruit of life. The choice is going to be yours, and the choice is going to be mine.

It is going to be very good for us to ponder, in our own lives, how well are we using the gift of speech? What do our words reveal about what is in our hearts? Is our conversation positive, uplifting, and faith-filled, or is it negative, critical, fault-finding, murmuring, derogatory and unkind? Do our words tend to death, or do our words tend to life? Whatever it is, you and I will eat the fruit, so be warned, and be instructed.

Transcript by Patricia Plunkett (many thanks Trish!)

Editor's Note:

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Wisdom in Being Honest

(Copyright 2023) by Zac Poonen (Bangalore, India)

True Christian fellowship must be based on light. We can walk in true and deep fellowship with one another only if we are willing to walk in the light (1 John 1:7). This involves a willingness to be ourselves with each other - avoiding all sham and hypocrisy. This is how God intends Christians to walk with one another. Remember, the first sin publicly judged by God in the early Church was hypocrisy (see the story of Ananias and Sapphira recorded in Acts 5:1-14).

"The world is full of lonely, tense, fear-ridden and neurotic people. Christ has the answer to their problems, but that answer should come to them through His Body, the Church."

Sin has caused all of us to wear masks in our mutual relationships. We are afraid and ashamed of being known as we actually are. We live in a world full of people wearing masks; and when people get converted, they don't take off their masks. They wear their masks and go to meetings and meet with other people - and call that fellowship. But such fellowship is a farce. Yet the Devil has got most Christians satisfied with just that.

It is true that it is impossible for any of us to remove our masks completely. Living in a sinful world and fellowshiping in an imperfect church, and bound by the flesh ourselves, it is neither possible nor desirable to be completely honest with others. Total honesty is not feasible, because we can't see ourselves fully. Neither is it advisable because it may hinder others.

We certainly need wisdom in being honest. But we should never pretend to be something that we are not. That is hypocrisy - and hypocrisy was condemned outright by Jesus.

A self-righteous, Pharisaical attitude is what prevents many Christians from being channels of help and encouragement to others. Our attitude must be such that our fellow-believers and others will feel free to come to us and "let their hair

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down" and unburden themselves, knowing that they will meet with sympathy and understanding, and that they won't be despised for their ignorance or for their failures.

The world is full of lonely, tense, fear-ridden and neurotic people. Christ has the answer to their problems, but that answer should come to them through His Body, the Church. But alas, most Christians are so self-righteous and unreal that they drive away people in need.

Keith Miller says in *The Taste of New Wine*,

"Our modern church is filled with many people who look pure, sound pure, and are inwardly sick of themselves, their weaknesses, their frustration and the lack of reality around them in the church. Our non-Christian friends either feel, 'That bunch of nice untroubled people would never understand my problems'; or the more perceptive pagans, who know us socially or professionally, feel that we Christians are either grossly protected and ignorant about the human situation, or are out-and-out hypocrites."

We need to learn what it is to have honest fellowship with others on a personal level - and we can all begin with one person.

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Urgent – Prayers for Kenyan Brethren

(Copyright 09-19-2025) by Rebecca Wise (East Bend, North Carolina)

Please forward this message to your friends, submit it to your announcement bulletin, or post it on social media, whichever is applicable. This is lengthy, but it contains twenty years of history and background down to the current crisis.

September 2025 - This is an especially difficult time for our African brothers and sisters in Christ. Kenya Hands of Hope just paid most of the Term 3 fees for our orphans in school, but our widow Margret was unlawfully arrested and jailed because she can't pay fees for her two orphan grandsons. She can't even afford food. Last year her husband and daughter died from starvation. The boys' previous sponsor also died this year. Recently Margret hid for about a week (three days without food) but the police found her anyway. She is being held hostage until KHOFH pays, but as usual our funds are depleted.

Her son Benard manages two fields of maize and sweet potatoes for the widows and orphans at Sengera, but the harvest won't be ready until after the Feast of Tabernacles. Dauglas manages a field of sweet potatoes for the widows and orphans at Getionko. Sengera and Getionko are the two Feast sites in Kisii County. Dauglas also cannot afford school fees for his two sons. Almost always they need help to provide food for the widows and orphans in our congregations. John is one of our elders at Sengera. He and his wife have three children and support five orphans. Earlier this year he was beaten badly in jail because he couldn't afford school fees. He still can't walk upright and must use a cane. Whenever school fees are due, he hides to avoid arrest while waiting for us to pay them. (Schools in Kenya run from January to December. Term One begins in early January, Term Three in early May, and Term Three in early September.)

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Last year Dorcah, widow of Haron (former caretaker of Sengera House who died in an accident last year) was arrested for not being able to pay school fees for their older son in primary school. Dorcah is the matron, cook and housekeeper at Sengera House, and all the orphans do many chores. Haron had been jailed and even tortured several times for not being able to pay school fees. He was attacked by thieves at least twice. The first time he had no money, and the second time they stole his backpack but didn't get the paper bag with funds for the orphans.

Nehemiah, our oldest orphan, is the new caretaker of Sengera House. His life is very stressful, because he is under constant threat of arrest. Last year he was attacked by three men with a car who tried to kidnap him. They only got his phone, which they intended to use to extort ransom from his USA contacts. He has also been arrested at least once. Another time he and his motorbike taxi driver were in an accident, and his wallet fell into the river and went over a waterfall. By a miracle it floated downstream, where it was found by Kelvin, a young man who was praying for help for his five siblings, all orphans. They were all starving, but he didn't take anything from it. He called Nehemiah to return his wallet, and KHOFH repaired their house and found them employment to provide for themselves.

Almost half of Kenya's population is under age 18, and about a fifth of those children are orphans. Many adults have died from disease because they couldn't afford medical care. Many orphans are taken in by an elderly grandparent, or by a kind-hearted family. In other families, the oldest child becomes head of household. In 2013, the Kenyan government made it mandatory for all children to attend school. It promised to provide free public school, but those are few, underfunded, understaffed, overcrowded, and too far away for half-starved children to walk. The free meal program only lasted a few months. Parents are also required to pay for uniforms, shoes, supplies, and additional levies. The only option for most parents is private boarding schools, which provide transportation and meals. In Kenya, anyone who provides food for an orphan (even once) is held responsible for all his years of government-mandated schooling.

Meanwhile, Matara and Steven are being held hostage in the hospital without a bed or blanket until we pay their bills, which continue to increase because we don't have the funds to pay them. Recently Douglas was in the same situation. Shortly before that, his family was robbed of everything while hiding from arrest because they couldn't afford school fees for their son and two adopted orphans. Also, Benard's and Nehemiah's houses collapsed because of the recent heavy rains. Most people in Kenya are poor rural farmers who live in simple mud huts with corrugated roofs, and walls patched with any scrap items they can find.

Our older brethren have been faithful for decades since the old Radio COG years, then WCG, then the COGs. When we found these fellowships, the brethren were starving, and few had a Bible. They needed mosquito nets, shoes, clothing, soap, mattresses and blankets. We found many orphans whose parents had attended various COGs, but we never asked which one; we always helped them all. All the big COGs acknowledged that KHOFH is legitimate and doing good work, and some promised to help, but none ever did, nor will any of their members ever hear or read about our destitute brethren. Some church leaders said that Africa isn't a good investment for them, so they pulled out.

We began approaching independent COGs instead, but so far our appeals have not resulted in any tangible benefit for our suffering brethren. Most of our few but faithful donors are from Jewish Messianic groups, which are familiar with Jesus' instructions to help the poor.

Kenya Hands of Hope's mission is to help our widows and orphans to become self-sufficient, but lack of funds, school fees three times a year, and constant emergencies throughout the year has prevented this. In the last few years, we have lost ten of our widows and orphans to starvation. Currently we have 19 widows and 50 orphans.

Please pray for our brethren, and ask your friends to do the same, and send any donations you can. No amount is too small. PayPal allows you to send as little as a dollar. That's little more than a postage stamp, currently 78 cents. If everyone in your congregation sent just \$1 a month, it would make a tremendous difference for our faithful but destitute brethren.

Our few donors, many poor themselves, struggle to send enough to keep our brethren out of jail, our children in school, and our widows and orphans from starving. None of the few KHOH volunteers has ever received a dime, either for salary

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or expenses. It's an honor to donate our time, effort, thoughts, prayers and personal funds to this life-changing ministry on behalf of God's called-out brethren and beloved children.

Thank you in advance for your prayers, sharing the word, and donations if you can.

Kenya Hands of Hope, a 501(c)(3) charity founded in 2006 by William P. Goff
Website: [KHOFH – Kenya Hands of Hope](http://KHOFH.com)
Send Donations to: Kenya Hands of Hope,
334 East Main Street Bldg B Unit A3 Tuckerton, NJ 08087-2841

PayPal Donations: (fee is optional) https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=GYQKRX264EMNW
(please consider recurring monthly donations)

Or set up donations directly at paypal.com (no fee mentioned)
For More Information: Phone: (843) 447-0140 Email: goffb50@aol.com

Current fundraiser - Bedding for Getionko Orphans (GoFundMe)
(you set percentage of fee on a sliding scale)
<https://gofund.me/0f7ce04f>

Editor's Note:

We do not listen to video links or read print material that is linked to items we print, so we may or may not agree with those links. We only look at print material that is sent to us for print. Laura Lee

Letter

(Copyright 09-20-2025) by Obed Mambwe (Kawambwa, Zambia)

Thank you so much for Newsletter and we have learned many things. Therefore, we are Sabbath keepers. Trust in God ministry, P o box 730142, Kawambwa 730000, Luapula province. Zambia.

Details of world remit as follows: Mambwe obed +260766644007
What's App+ 260975490206

Please those who are willing to send donation for support our foreigner evangelism must follow this details on top.

With much of love, and prayers.
Mambwe Obed

Thank You Everyone!

What is Death?

(Copyright 08-30-2025) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

Dear Friends and Brethren,

Even when we face sickness and death, God is aware of our plight, and if we maintain godly faith, we are safely in his hands.

Scripture tells us, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation" (Hebrews 9:27-28).

Jesus said, "For as the Father raises the dead and makes alive, even so the Son of man makes alive whomever He will. For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son, so that all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes on Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they who hear shall live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has given to the Son to have life within Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man. Do not marvel at this, for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil to the resurrection of condemnation" (John 5:21-29, Green's Modern King James Version).

In verse 24, "shall not come into condemnation" is translated in some versions, such as the New King James Version, "judgment," but the correct translation is in this instance "condemnation." In verse 29, the last verse in the quoted passage, the phrase "resurrection of condemnation," should be "...judgment," not "condemnation," and it is so translated in a number of translations. The Greek word in the passage from John translated, "judgment" or "condemnation" is *krisis*, a noun which can be rendered variously according to the context. It can be rendered "judgment," implying a process leading to a decision, or "condemnation," implying a decision to condemn. But the judgment does not necessarily have to be condemnation, it can be forgiveness leading to salvation, as implied in the context of the Scriptures quoted above.

Peter makes it clear that the first to be judged in terms of eternal salvation are those who are converted in this age, the Church of God. "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?" (I Peter 4:17). But if we are and remain faithful to God and his word, salvation is assured. For others, the final judgment, at least for most of them, will await a future age, after they are resurrected from the dead.

In the sermon I have edited and posted for this Sabbath, "[What is Death?](#)" I explain what death is according to Scripture. Many, vast multitudes, have been deceived by false teachings that death is not really a cessation of life, but that the dead continue to live a conscious existence somewhere else, such as either heaven, hell or purgatory as many Churches claiming to be "Christian" teach. Others believe that when a person dies, his life is over, and there is no remedy, no future, no resurrection to life.

It's important that you understand what the truth is about this matter, and it's encouraging that God has a plan for mankind that is far more merciful and just than many imagine.

In Christian love,
Rod Reynolds

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New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Holy Days 2025

Passover – April 13, 2025 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 13-19, 2025

Pentecost – June 2, 2025

Trumpets – September 23, 2025

Atonement – October 2, 2025

Tabernacles –October 7, 2025, to October 13, 2025

Last Great Day – October 14, 2025

Notes