

# Speech Reformed by the Holy Spirit



**Graham F. Watts, Sr.**

**VISION:** To hear the midnight cry, “The bridegroom comes, go out to meet Him” (Matthew 25:6) and become like Him when I see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).

**MISSION:** Purify myself even as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3) to be glad, to rejoice, give honor to Christ and be ready for the marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

**VALUES:** Follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Revelation 14:4), be without fault before God (Revelation 14:5), be perfect even as my Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48), wear the Lamb’s fine, clean and white linen (Revelation 19:8) do righteously (1 John 3:10) and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

**OVERALL AIM:** Studies presented here unveil Bible knowledge to inquiring minds to prompt the following inquiries: “Are our feet on the rock of ages? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father” (John 10:30 in Evangelism, {Ev} 199.1)? Am I crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)?

## 25 PURPOSE/REASON FOR/WHY

26  
27 To make Christian believers aware that the "...Words of a [person's]  
28 mouth are as deep waters..." (Proverbs 18:3).

29  
30 OBJECTIVE/WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH  
31  
32 To enable Christ's followers to bridle the tongue to keep the soul  
33 from troubles (read Proverbs 21:23) so that the religious experience  
34 will **NOT** be in vain (read James 1:26).

35

## 36 SIGNIFICANCE: SO WHAT

37  
38 "...Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew  
39 12:34 or Luke 6:45). "Our thoughts produce our words..." (The Voice  
40 in Speech and Song, {VSS} 52.3) [but] "...thoughts [also] follow  
41 words" (VSS 162.1); therefore, "...The speech needs to be converted  
42 and sanctified" (VSS 30.3). "Death and life are in the power of the  
43 tongue..." (Proverbs 18:21). "Words are a power for good or evil, a  
44 savor of life unto life or death unto death" (VSS 30.3). **"The more  
45 you talk faith, the more faith you will have. The more you dwell  
46 upon discouragement ...the more... trials you will have"** (VSS 163.3).  
47 Instead of complaining, try praising God and glorifying His name  
48 (read Psalms 86:12 & 22:23-24).

49

50 **"IN ONE MOMENT, THE HASTY, PASSIONATE, CARELESS TONGUE MAY [SPEAK]  
51 EVIL THAT A WHOLE LIFETIME'S REPENTANCE CANNOT UNDO.** Oh, the hearts  
52 that are broken, the friends estranged, the lives wrecked, by the  
53 harsh, hasty **words** of those who might have **brought help and healing"**  
54 (Education {Ed} 236.7). **"Of all the gifts which God... gives...,  
55 none is more noble or a greater blessing than the gift of speech, IF  
56 IT IS SANCTIFIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. ...With the tongue we convince  
57 and persuade; with it we offer prayer and praise to God; and with it  
58 we convey rich thoughts of the Redeemer's love" (VSS 59.1).**

59 “The Lord requires that education should be given in the science of  
 60 conversation [because] this faculty has been much abused and  
 61 perverted” (VSS 30.3). The tongue should not send forth bitter and  
 62 sweet water (James 3:11). “All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and  
 63 creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but  
 64 no [person], [unaided by the Holy Spirit], can tame **the tongue; it is**  
 65 **a restless evil, full of deadly poison**” (James 3:7, NIV). Hence,  
 66 “...**Hasty, reckless use of the faculty of speech lies at the**  
 67 **foundation of nearly all... church troubles...**” (VSS 31.2).  
 68 Nevertheless, God expects “...No corrupt communication [to] proceed  
 69 out of [our] mouth, but only that which is good to the use of  
 70 edifying **that it may minister grace unto the hearers**” (Ephesians  
 71 4:29).

72  
 73 “Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for  
 74 his children” (Messages to Young People, {MYP} 40.1). We must “Clear  
 75 the rubbish away from the King's highway [and] make a way that the  
 76 King may walk in our midst [by putting] away filthy communications  
 77 out of our mouth” (VSS 138.2). “Our education in regard to the  
 78 science of conversation will be in every way improved if we make the  
 79 Word of God our study” (VSS 31.3). “Slandorous--false and damaging--  
 80 speeches... will not be spoken by those who are feeding on... the  
 81 Word of the living God and delighting themselves on... God's  
 82 exceeding great and precious promises” (VSS 145.3).

83

## 84 **BACKGROUND CONTEXT**

85  
 86 “[Speech] has not been held as a precious gift from God to be used to  
 87 glorify His name” (VSS 30.3). “Who does not love life and **DESIRE**  
 88 **GOOD DAYS?** Yet **how few comply with THE CONDITIONS, to REFRAIN THE**  
 89 **TONGUE FROM EVIL AND THE LIPS FROM SPEAKING GUILE;** few are willing to  
 90 follow the Savior’s example of meekness and humility. **Many ask the**  
 91 **Lord to humble them but are unwilling to SUBMIT TO THE NEEDFUL**

92 **DISCIPLINE**, [so] when the **TEST COMES**, when **TRIALS OR EVEN ANNOYANCES**  
 93 **OCCUR**, the heart rebels and the tongue utter words that are like  
 94 poisoned arrows or blasting hail" (VSS 139.1). This tendency to  
 95 speak unadvisedly requires sanctification. "...**The heart [must be**  
 96 **emptied] of self [so that] envy, evil surmising [and] malice... will**  
 97 **not ...climb on the judgment seat and pronounce sentence upon**  
 98 **others...**" (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, {5T} 613.1).

99  
 100 "A fool's lips enter into contention and his [/her] mouth calls for  
 101 strokes" (Proverbs 18:6). "A fool's mouth is his [/her] destruction  
 102 and his [/her] lips are the snare of his [/her] soul" (Proverbs  
 103 18:7). Few church people may identify with the fool of Proverbs 18,  
 104 yet Scripture reminds us not only of the fool who denies the  
 105 existence of God (Psalms 14:1 or 53:1), but also of fools who lack  
 106 God's Holy Spirit while avidly engaged in religious activities (read  
 107 Matthew 25:2-3 & 1 Kings 18:19-28)! This is a bitter pill but "All  
 108 Scriptures [are provided] for doctrine, reproof, correction and  
 109 instructions in righteousness that the [people] of God may [become]  
 110 perfect..." (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Hence, Scripture counsels us to  
 111 take heed, lest while we think we stand, we fall (1 Corinthians  
 112 10:12). This is apropos because "Every way of a man [of Genesis 5:2]  
 113 is right [and clean] in his own eyes..." (Proverbs 21:2 & 16:1).  
 114 But, "**In the use of language there is perhaps no error that old and**  
 115 **young are more ready to pass over lightly in themselves than hasty,**  
 116 **impatient speech**" (VSS 143.4).

117  
 118 Confidential Informants (CIs) help Law Enforcement but hurt in  
 119 religion. Christ does not call for CIs because "The words of...  
 120 talebearers are as wounds; they go into the innermost parts of the  
 121 belly" (Proverbs 18:8). Surveillance of the character of others that  
 122 leads to faultfinding and criticizing have no place in the Christian  
 123 experience for it is the office of the Holy Spirit to "...reprove  
 124 ...of sin, ...righteousness... and judgment" (John 16:7-8).

125 Abstaining from faultfinding and criticizing do not exclude "The  
 126 plain, straight testimony [that] must live in the church (Isaiah  
 127 58:1) or the curse of God will rest upon His people as surely as it  
 128 did upon ancient Israel because of their sins" (Daniel 9:11 in  
 129 Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, {3T} 269.2). The delicate  
 130 balance indicated here must come from "...garrisoning the citadel of  
 131 the soul that Satan should not enter to take possession" (VSS 34.4).  
 132 Thus, we will reach **God's standard of perfection, NOT offending in**  
 133 **word** (see James 3:2), "...always [doing] those things that please  
 134 [God]" (John 8:29) AND not coming **behind in [any] gift**, [while]  
 135 waiting for the coming of... Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:7). This  
 136 background provided the impetus for the study question that follows.  
 137

## 138 STUDY QUESTION

139  
 140 How can I use the gift of speech to bless others and glorify God?  
 141

## 142 ANSWER SOURCE: HOLY BIBLE

143  
 144 1. **Frame speech to heal, not wound!** "[Some] speaks like the piercings  
 145 of a sword, but the tongue of the wise is health" (Proverbs 12:18)  
 146 [because] "The wise in heart... receive commandments..." (Proverbs  
 147 10:8). "Righteous lips are the delight of kings; they love him  
 148 that speaks right" (Proverbs 16:13) for "...The sweetness of the  
 149 lips increases learning" (Proverbs 16:21). "[Therefore, open the]  
 150 mouth with wisdom and in [our] tongue [will be] the law of  
 151 kindness" (Proverbs 31:26) [and] "[Our] speech [will always] be...  
 152 with grace, seasoned with salt..." (Colossians 4:6). "A soft  
 153 answer turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up strife"  
 154 (Proverbs 15:1) AND "A [person] offended is harder to [win] than a  
 155 strong city [because] contentions are like the bars of a castle"  
 156 (Proverbs 18:19).

157

158 2. **“...Clothe [your speech] with [Christlike] compassion, kindness,**  
 159 **humility, gentleness and patience”**<sup>1</sup> (Colossians 3:12, NIV). Notice  
 160 the striking similarity of the attributes of the previous sentence  
 161 with the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. **“[With**  
 162 **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, we can]**  
 163 **bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances [we] may have**  
 164 **against one another, FORGIVING AS THE LORD FORGAVE [US]**<sup>2</sup>  
 165 (Colossians 3:13, NIV). [When we] **...PUT ON LOVE,**<sup>3</sup> **WHICH [COMES**  
 166 **FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT,** Romans 5:5), it] binds... [all the fruit of  
 167 the Holy Spirit] together (Colossians 3:14, NIV). [Then] ...the  
 168 **PEACE OF GOD [CAN] RULE [OUR] HEART**<sup>4</sup> (Colossians 3:15, NIV) [and]  
 169 the **WORD OF CHRIST [CAN] DWELL IN [US] RICHLY**<sup>5</sup> as [we] **teach and**  
 170 **admonish one another with all wisdom** and as [we] **SING PSALMS, HYMNS**  
 171 **AND SPIRITUAL SONGS WITH GRATITUDE**<sup>6</sup> in [our] hearts to God”  
 172 (Colossians 3:16, NIV). **Following these six steps, “A flood of**  
 173 **words that have in them no virtue or goodness, will NOT pour from**  
 174 **[our] lips”** (VSS 31.1).

175

176 3. **Use speech as an Outreach activity.** “Heaviness in the heart of man  
 177 makes it stoop, but **A GOOD WORD** makes it glad” (Proverbs 12:25),  
 178 [thus facilitating recovery from] “...A broken spirit, [which]  
 179 dries the bones” (Proverbs 17:22). **“PLEASANT WORDS are** as a  
 180 honeycomb, **sweet to the soul and health to the bones**” (Proverbs  
 181 16:24). “A **SOFT ANSWER** turns away wrath but grievous words stir up  
 182 anger” (Proverbs 15:1). **A WORD FITLY SPOKEN** is like apples of gold  
 183 in pictures of silver” (Proverbs 25:11). Rich dividends come from  
 184 adherence to the principles underlined in this paragraph. “For  
 185 [s/he] that will **love life and see good days,** let him [/her]  
 186 **refrain [the] tongue from evil and [the] lips that they speak no**  
 187 **guile** [nothing dishonest, pretentious or duplicitous]” (1 Peter  
 188 3:10).

189

190 4. **Ask Christ to guide your speech.** "In [Christ] are hid all the  
 191 treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). Therefore, by  
 192 abiding in Christ, we are "...Filled with the knowledge of **His** will  
 193 in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Colossians 1:9) and  
 194 [can] **walk** in wisdom (Colossians 4:5)! Thus, "The words of a **wise**  
 195 man's mouth are gracious..." (Ecclesiastes 10:12). "The tongue of  
 196 **the wise** uses knowledge right..." (Proverbs 15:2) and "The lips of  
 197 **the wise** disperse knowledge..." (Proverbs 15:7). Old and New  
 198 Testament examples follow. Bezalel, the temple engineer, received  
 199 wisdom by the Holy Spirit to instruct his helpers (Exodus 31:1-5;  
 200 35:30-33); the skilled people who made Aaron's consecration garment  
 201 received wisdom from God (Exodus 28:3) and Jesus Christ "...Waxed  
 202 strong in spirit [and was] filled with wisdom..." (Luke 2:40).  
 203 "**[When God purifies] unto Himself a peculiar people...**" (Titus  
 204 **2:14)** and "...gives [them pure, peaceable and gentle **HEAVENLY**]  
 205 **...wisdom and knowledge...**" (read Ecclesiastes 2:26 and James  
 206 **3:17)**, "... **[They speak]... pleasant words**" (Proverbs 15:26).  
 207

208 5. **Use words sparingly with an excellent spirit** (read Proverbs 17:27).  
 209 Even "The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (1  
 210 Corinthians 14:32). Not every thought that rises to the level of  
 211 consciousness warrant expression. By [our] words [we] shall be  
 212 justified and by [our] words [we] shall be condemned" (Matthew  
 213 12:37). "See... a [person] that is hasty [i.e., quick with] words;  
 214 there is more hope [for] a fool than [for that person]" (Proverbs  
 215 29:20). "S/He that has no rule over his [or her] own spirit is like  
 216 a city that is broken down and without walls" (Proverbs 25:28).  
 217 Let the **Holy Spirit inspire** (read John 14:26) and **authorize** (read  
 218 **Isaiah 30:21)** our speech so that it is "Always with grace, seasoned  
 219 **with salt...**" (Colossians 4:6) and "Sound [that it] cannot be  
 220 **condemned...**" (Titus 2:8).

221 **ANSWER SOURCE: SACRED WRITINGS**

222

223 We want to know: How can I use the gift of speech to bless others and  
 224 to glorify God? More answers follow!

225

226 1. "...**LIVE** in the atmosphere of Christ's love. **BREATHE** His love  
 227 **deeply** and **REFLECT** its warmth around us. ...Carefully ...  
 228 **CULTIVATE THE GARDEN OF THE SOUL** (Philippians 4:8) [and it will]  
 229 bring forth only pure, sweet, fragrant flowers! **WORDS OF LOVE,**  
 230 **TENDERNESS AND CHARITY SANCTIFY OUR INFLUENCE OVER OTHERS**" (VSS  
 231 50.2). "God desires your words to be life-giving, [like the  
 232 medical, bedside intravenous drip and not the mortician's blood  
 233 washout solution]. **...HOWEVER PROVOKED YOU MAY FEEL; KEEP BACK**  
 234 **EVERY WORD THAT WOULD STIR UP THE EVIL IN ANOTHER'S HEART. ...LET**  
 235 **EVERY WORD YOU SPEAK BLESS AND ELEVATE**" (VSS 144.5). "Foolish and  
 236 unlearned questions avoid..." (2 Timothy 2:23). "...Argumentative  
 237 subjects are productive of little good" (VSS 115.2). "...**BE GENTLE**  
 238 unto all..." (2 Timothy 2:24), "**IN MEEKNESS, INSTRUCT** those that  
 239 oppose..., [that] God ...will give them repentance to the  
 240 acknowledging of the truth" (2 Timothy 2:25) "That they may  
 241 recover... [from] the snares of the devil..." (2 Timothy 2:26). In  
 242 view of these things, "...[we] must be about [our] Father's  
 243 business" (Luke 2:49).

244

245 2. "[Get] the love of God in [your] heart [and it will] ...**ALWAYS** lead  
 246 [you] to speak gentle words" (VSS 146.2). "**IF THE LOVE OF GOD**  
 247 **[Romans 5:5] IS IN OUR HEARTS; WE SHALL NOT THINK EVIL [OR] BE**  
 248 **EASILY DISTURBED/PROVOKED** (1 Corinthians 13:5) AND ...not give  
 249 loose reign to passion. [Instead], **we will show that we are yoked**  
 250 **with Christ and that the restraining power of His Spirit leads us**  
 251 **to speak words that he can approve. The yoke of Christ (Matthew**  
 252 **11:28) is the restraint of the Holy Spirit** [that deters us from]  
 253 **...speaking... fiery words**" (VSS 146.3).



270 4. **Learn of Christ!** “When He opened His lips to speak... every word  
 271 was to some soul a savor of life unto life” (VSS 75.1). “[Christ]  
 272 words were like balm to the wounded spirit” (VSS 79.2). **“By loving**  
 273 **words and by works of mercy, Christ bore down old traditions and**  
 274 **man-made commandments and presented the love of the Father in its**  
 275 **exhaustless fullness.** His calm, earnest, musical voice fell like  
 276 balm on the wounded spirit” (VSS 71.2). “His tender compassion  
 277 fell with a touch of healing upon weary and troubled hearts. **EVEN**  
 278 **AMID THE TURBULENCE OF ANGRY ENEMIES ...AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE**  
 279 **[SURROUNDED CHRIST].** The beauty of His countenance, the  
 280 loveliness of His character, above all, the love expressed in look  
 281 and tone, drew to Him all who were not hardened in unbelief. Had  
 282 it not been for the sweet, sympathetic spirit that shone out in  
 283 every look and word, he would not have attracted the large  
 284 congregations that he did” (VSS 71.3).

285  
 286 5. **Avoid flattery, i.e., sweet or smooth talk and suppression of**  
 287 **truth”** (Romans 1:18, NIV). “... It serves the tempter's purpose...  
 288 to lure men to destruction by flattery” (Evangelism, {Ev} 608.1).  
 289 The Savior's example is instructive. **“The Savior** never suppressed  
 290 the truth, but He uttered it always in love. ...He **exercised the**  
 291 **greatest tact and He was always kind and thoughtful; ...NEVER**  
 292 **needlessly [speaking] a severe word, never [giving] unnecessary**  
 293 **pain to a sensitive soul.** He did not censure, [i.e., criticize,  
 294 condemn, reproach or denounce] human weakness” (VSS 79.1). Though  
 295 at times “He fearlessly denounced hypocrisy, unbelief and iniquity,  
 296 [but] tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes”  
 297 (VSS 73.2). **“Under all circumstances ...SIT IN HEAVENLY PLACES**  
 298 **WITH CHRIST** [and our] words will **NOT** be charged with bullets that  
 299 wound hearts and that may destroy life” (VSS 138.3). The  
 300 invitation to sit in heavenly places in Christ is particularly  
 301 relevant to reformers who will implement Isaiah 58:1 AND Galatians  
 302 6:1. More importantly, however, reformers must “...Walk in

303 [Christ], rooted and built up in Him... [always] abounding with  
 304 thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:6-7).

305  
 306 6. **Ask God to clothe the spirit and speech with the Holy Spirit's**  
 307 **gentleness.** "... [God's] gentleness [makes us] great" (read 2  
 308 Samuel 22:36; Psalms 18:35). All around us, "...Souls melt for  
 309 heaviness, [longing to be] strengthened... according [to God's]  
 310 word" (Psalms 119:28); therefore, "Kind words are as dew and gentle  
 311 showers to the soul. The Scripture says of Christ that the words He  
 312 spoke came from God (read John 14:24). **How this was possible**  
 313 **traces back to Mark 1:35.** "From hours spent with God [Christ] came  
 314 forth morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men.  
 315 **DAILY HE RECEIVED A FRESH BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** In the early  
 316 hours of the new day, the Lord awakened Him from His slumbers, His  
 317 soul and His lips [received anointing] with grace that He might  
 318 impart to others. **His words... [came] fresh from the heavenly**  
 319 **courts, words that He might speak in season to the weary and**  
 320 **oppressed"** (Mark 1:35 in Christ's Object Lesson, {COL} 139.1).  
 321 Therefore, as grace poured into Christ's lips, He acquired the  
 322 "...Tongue of the learned, [which enabled Him] ...to speak a word  
 323 in season to him that is weary... (Isaiah 50:4). [Similarly], the  
 324 Lord bids His sons and daughters, "Let your speech be always with  
 325 grace... that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Colossians  
 326 4:6 in VSS 133.3).

327  
 328 7. **"All who profess godliness are under the most sacred obligation to**  
 329 **guard [their] spirit and to exercise self-control under the**  
 330 **greatest provocation.** ...God has made ample provision for His  
 331 people; and if they rely upon His strength, they will never become  
 332 the sport of circumstances. ...However great the pressure brought  
 333 to bear upon the soul, **transgression is our own act. It is not in**  
 334 **the power of earth or hell to compel anyone to do evil.** Satan  
 335 attacks us at our weak points...; [nevertheless, no matter how]

336 severe or unexpected the assault, God has provided help for us and  
 337 in His strength we may conquer" (1 Corinthians 10:13 in Conflict  
 338 and Courage, {CC} 110.4).

339  
 340 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS: The sum of these truths discussed here  
 341 follows! "Some pride themselves on being outspoken, blunt and rough  
 342 and they call this frankness; but it is not rightly named, it is  
 343 selfishness of the deepest [kind]. These persons may have virtues;  
 344 they may be liberal and have kind impulses; but their discourteous  
 345 manners render them almost insupportable. They criticize, they wound  
 346 and they say disagreeable things. ...**We do well to examine ourselves**  
 347 **to see what manner of spirit we are cherishing. LET US LEARN TO**  
 348 **SPEAK GENTLY [AND] QUIETLY EVEN UNDER [TRYING] CIRCUMSTANCES.... Let**  
 349 **us control not only our words, but [also] our thoughts and**  
 350 **imagination.** Let us be kind [and] courteous in our words and  
 351 deportment. There is great neglect in this respect" (VSS 141.1).

352  
 353 "The good qualities which many possess are hidden and instead of  
 354 attracting souls to Christ they repulse them. If these persons could  
 355 see the influence of their uncourteous ways and unkind expressions  
 356 upon unbelievers, and how offensive is such conduct in the sight of  
 357 God, they would reform their habits, for **a lack of courtesy is one of**  
 358 **the greatest [obstacles] to sinners. Selfish, complaining [and] sour**  
 359 **Christians bar the way so that sinners do not care to approach**  
 360 **Christ"** (Our High Calling, {OHC} 229 in VSS 141.2).

361  
 362 "**Hard words beat upon the heart through the ear, awakening to life**  
 363 **the worst passions of the soul and tempting men and women to break**  
 364 **God's commandments"** (The Adventist Home, {AH} 439 in VSS 142.1).  
 365 "**Harsh, angry words are not of heavenly origin. Scolding [i.e.,**  
 366 **rebuke, reproach, admonishment] and fretting [i.e., worry, agitation]**  
 367 **never help; instead, they stir up the worst feelings of the human**  
 368 **heart"** (Child Guidance, {CG} 246 in VSS 142.2). "The sharp, rude

369 angles and rough points in our character, the **manifestations of**  
 370 **selfishness in unkind words and actions, tear away the delicate**  
 371 **fabric of human love and happiness"** (VSS 142.3). More importantly,  
 372 "The displeasure of God rests upon everyone who speaks harsh, unkind  
 373 words" (VSS 57.1).

374

## 375 **DISCUSSION: WHAT DO THESE THINGS MEAN?**

376

377 "Closely connected with Christ's warning in regard to the sin against  
 378 the Holy Spirit is a warning against idle and evil words [(read  
 379 Isaiah 63:10, Ephesians 4:30, Matthew 12:36 & Ephesians 4:29). The  
 380 words are an indication of that which is in the heart]. Out of the  
 381 abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. However, the words are more  
 382 than an indication of character; they have power to react on the  
 383 character. [People] are influenced by their own words" (VSS 138.4).  
 384 "Evil speaking is a twofold curse, falling more heavily upon the  
 385 speaker than upon the hearer. S/he who scatters the seeds of  
 386 dissension and strife reaps in his [/her] own soul the deadly fruits.  
 387 ...The talebearer [and] the surmiser of evil... is a stranger to true  
 388 happiness" (5T 176 in VSS 139.2). [Therefore], **"Not one word is to**  
 389 **be spoken unadvisedly.** No evil speaking, no frivolous talk, no  
 390 fretful repining or impure suggestion will escape the lips of  
 391 [anyone] who is following Christ. ...It means **any expression**  
 392 **contrary to holy principles and pure and undefiled religion** [must **NOT**  
 393 escape the lips]" (COL 337.2).

394

395 **"Satan's agents are industriously trying to get professed Christians**  
 396 **to speak unadvisedly.** When they succeed, Satan exults, because God's  
 397 followers have hurt their influence" (VSS 56.2). **"If they could see**  
 398 **the mischief wrought by their careless words, the repetition of vague**  
 399 **reports, the unjust censures** [i.e., expressions of disapproval,  
 400 condemnation, reprimands, etc] **THERE WOULD BE FAR LESS TALKING AND**  
 401 **MORE PRAYING WHEN CHRISTIANS ASSEMBLE TOGETHER"** (VSS 53.2). **"THE**

402 **SHARP WORD MUST BE LEFT UNSPOKEN. THE PASSIONATE WORDS [MUST BE]**  
 403 **QUENCHED IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST; FOR IF THIS DROSS IS NOT**  
 404 **CLEANSED FROM THE SOUL THERE IS NO HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE"** (VSS 144.3).

405  
 406 **"[We must] ...hold ourselves in readiness to speak words that are**  
 407 **gentle, pure, elevating, chaste and holy in the face of [a] whirlwind**  
 408 **of confusion, bustle and strife.** Words fitly spoken, coming from  
 409 sanctified hearts and lips and sustained by a godly, consistent  
 410 Christian deportment will be as apples of gold in pictures of silver  
 411 (VSS 54.3). "[However], **those who profess the truth and at the same**  
 412 **time are rough, sour and unkind in words and deportment have NOT**  
 413 **learned of Jesus... [and by] all these manifestations show that they**  
 414 **are servants of the wicked one"** (Our High Calling, {OHC} 238 in VSS  
 415 142.4).

416  
 417 **"One of the finest and most elevating branches of education is that**  
 418 **of knowing how to address members of the household, that the**  
 419 **influence of the words spoken will be pure and incorruptible.** The  
 420 proper conversation of a Christian is that which will enable him to  
 421 interchange ideas. Loud-voiced words that help and bless no one  
 422 might better be changed for words of good, elevated, enlightened  
 423 common sense. **THIS LINE OF WORK IS THE GREATEST MISSIONARY**  
 424 **ENTERPRISE IN WHICH ANY CHRISTIAN CAN ENGAGE.** Those who use the  
 425 organs of speech as the living machinery of God, become living stones  
 426 in His temple, emitting light and knowledge" (VSS 34.3).

427

## 428 **CONCLUSIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

429  
 430 "The chief requisite of language is that it be pure, kind and true:  
 431 the outward expression of an inward grace" (VSS 133.2). **"Correct**  
 432 **living and correct speaking have a greater influence for good than**  
 433 **all the sermons that can be preached"** (VSS 51.4). **"Righteous words**  
 434 **and deeds have a more powerful influence for good than all the**

435 **sermons that can be preached**" (VSS 52.1). "Day by day we are sowing  
 436 seeds for the future harvest. **We cannot be too careful of the seed**  
 437 **we sow by our words**. ...Sow one unkind, harsh word and this seed,  
 438 finding soil in the minds of the hearers will spring up to bear fruit  
 439 after its kind. **SOW ONE SEED IN LOVING, GENTLE, CHRISTLIKE WORDS AND**  
 440 **IT WILL BRING YOU RICH RETURNS.**

441  
 442 Let us guard ourselves, lest we speak words that curse rather than  
 443 bless (VSS 51.2). "Haphazard..., hasty, common words, talking for  
 444 the sake of talking, when silence would be better are a sin. **Those**  
 445 **who are the [wordiest] exercise no wholesome influence upon the**  
 446 **society in which they live and move**" (VSS 30.3). "Evil speaking  
 447 should be dealt with as a misdemeanor that is subject to church trial  
 448 and separation from church membership **if persisted in**; for the church  
 449 cannot be set in order in any other way" (VSS 31.2). **[HOWEVER], "IF**  
 450 **WE DESIRE TO REFORM OTHERS WE MUST OURSELVES PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLES**  
 451 **WHICH WE WOULD ENFORCE UPON THEM**. Words, however good, will be  
 452 powerless if contradicted by the daily life. Ministers of Christ, I  
 453 admonish you: 'Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine.' Do not  
 454 excuse sins in yourselves, which you reprove in others. If you preach  
 455 on meekness and love, [exemplify] ...these graces... in your own  
 456 life. If you urge others to be kind, courteous and attentive at  
 457 home, let your own example give force to your admonitions"  
 458 (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, {5T} 160 in VSS 55.2).

459  
 460 **"S/HE WHO WOULD CONFESS CHRIST MUST HAVE CHRIST ABIDING IN HIM/HER.**  
 461 [We] cannot communicate that which [we have] not received. **THE**  
 462 **DISCIPLES MIGHT SPEAK FLUENTLY ON DOCTRINES, THEY MIGHT REPEAT THE**  
 463 **WORDS OF CHRIST HIMSELF; BUT UNLESS THEY POSSESS CHRISTLIKE MEEKNESS**  
 464 **AND LOVE, THEY WERE NOT CONFESSING HIM.** [People] deny Christ by evil  
 465 speaking, foolish talking [and speaking] words that are untruthful or  
 466 unkind" (The Desire of Ages, {DA} 357 in VSS 56.1). In contrast,  
 467 only "...The pure in heart... shall see God" (Matthew 5:8); "Those

468 only will enter heaven who has overcome the temptation to think and  
 469 speak evil" (Sons and Daughters of God {SD} 348 in VSS 145.2).

470  
 471 "The words, the spirit [AND] the attitude determine the scale of  
 472 usefulness" (VSS 47.2). "There is many a brave soul sorely pressed  
 473 by temptation, almost ready to faint in the conflict with self and  
 474 with the powers of evil. Do not discourage such a one in his [/her]  
 475 hard struggle. Cheer him [/her] with brave, hopeful words that shall  
 476 urge [along the] way. Thus the light of Christ may shine from you"  
 477 (VSS 155.3). **"Choice words MUST be spoken by those who would do**  
 478 **service for Christ"** (VSS 30.3). "[Therefore, let your] speech  
 479 [testify of God and demonstrate] ...the Spirit and power [from  
 480 above]" (1 Corinthians 2:4 & 1).

481  
 482 **"Every Christian is called to make known to others the unsearchable**  
 483 **riches of Christ; therefore ...seek perfection in speech. ...It is**  
 484 **not [God's] will that [humankind] shall belittle or degrade the**  
 485 **heavenly current that flows through him [/her] to the world"** (VSS  
 486 36.1). "Angels are watching with intense interest to see how [we  
 487 are] dealing with fellow [mortals]. When they see one manifest  
 488 Christ like sympathy for the erring, they (i.e., the angels) press to  
 489 his [/her] side and bring to his [/her] remembrance words to speak  
 490 that will be as the bread of life to the soul" (Christ's Object  
 491 Lessons, {COL}, 148.4). "Christ was continually receiving from the  
 492 Father that He might communicate to us" (COL 139.1). "Ask, and it  
 493 shall be given you..." (Matthew 7:7 or Luke 11:9).

494

### 495 **CALL TO ACTION: WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

496  
 497 **"By earnest prayer and diligent effort we are to obtain a fitness for**  
 498 **speaking"** (VSS 181.1). "[We need] to walk before God as did Enoch...  
 499 showing... sincerity by pure words, clean words, words full of

500 sympathy, tenderness and love" (VSS 140.1). "...If [anyone] thirst,  
 501 let him [or her] come unto me and drink" (John 7:37). **"S/He who**  
 502 **drinks in the spirit of Christ will let it flow forth in kind**  
 503 **words... expressed in courteous deportment..."** (Our High Calling,  
 504 {OHC} 238 in VSS 142.4). **"The most precious fruit of sanctification**  
 505 **is the grace of meekness. When [meekness] presides in the soul**  
 506 **...there is a continual waiting upon God and a submission of the will**  
 507 **to His. The understanding grasps every divine truth and the will**  
 508 **bows to every divine precept, without doubting or murmuring.** True  
 509 meekness softens and subdues the heart and gives the mind a fitness  
 510 for the engrafted word. It brings the thoughts into obedience to  
 511 Jesus Christ. It opens the heart to the Word of God... [and] places  
 512 us... at the feet of Jesus. 'The meek will He guide in judgment and  
 513 the meek will He teach His way'" (Psalms 25:9 in My Life Today, {ML}  
 514 253.2).

515  
 516 "Make it a rule **NEVER** to utter one word of doubt or discouragement.  
 517 **...BRIGHTEN THE LIFE OF OTHERS AND STRENGTHEN THEIR EFFORTS BY WORDS**  
 518 **OF HOPE AND HOLY CHEER"** (Steps to Christ, {SC} 119-120 in VSS 156.1).  
 519 **"Make a covenant with God that you will guard well your words.** If  
 520 any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man and able also  
 521 to bridle the whole body" (James 3:2). Let Christ speak through you"  
 522 (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7 {7T} 243). **"...Probationary**  
 523 **time is too brief to be spent in dwelling upon the shortcomings of**  
 524 **others"** (4T 135 in VSS 145.1). **"The truly converted [person] has no**  
 525 **inclination to think or talk of the faults of others.** His [/her]  
 526 lips are sanctified and as God's witness s/he testifies that the  
 527 grace of Christ has transformed [the] heart" (VSS 145.2).  
 528 **"When poor, wounded, bruised souls come to you for words of hope, you**  
 529 **are to speak to them the words of Christ.** ...Those who speak as  
 530 Christ spoke will never plant bitter words like barbed arrows in the  
 531 wounded soul. ...Bear in mind that the Lord hears the words we speak  
 532 and is acquainted with the spirit that prompts our actions" (VSS

533 131.1). **“Work disinterestedly, lovingly [and] patiently for all with**  
 534 **whom you are brought into contact. Show no impatience. Let the love**  
 535 **of Christ be in your hearts [AND] the law of kindness on your lips”**  
 536 (VSS 131.2).

537  
 538 “[Pursue] A Christlike nature...! [It] will **NOT** hurt the souls of  
 539 those who are struggling with Satan's temptations. **It will enter**  
 540 **into the feelings of those who are tempted..., [i.e., it will**  
 541 **empathize with others]**. [God appoints this practice] to all. ...**You**  
 542 **will all have to seek God most earnestly in prayer mingled with**  
 543 **living faith and the molding hand of God will bring out His own image**  
 544 **in your character.** ...Let us bear in mind that we are dealing with  
 545 souls that Christ has purchased [at] infinite cost to Himself. [So]  
 546 tell the erring, ‘God loves you, God died for you.’ Weep over them,  
 547 pray with them. Shed tears over them, but do not get angry with them  
 548 [for] they are Christ's purchased possession. ...**Seek a character**  
 549 **that will express love in all actions”** (Fundamentals of Christian  
 550 Education, {FE} 280.1).

551  
 552 Be careful of your words when you seek to correct or reform others.  
 553 **“IN GIVING REPROOF OR COUNSEL, [DO NOT] INDULGE IN SHARP, SEVERE**  
 554 **SPEECH, USING WORDS NOT ADAPTED TO HEAL THE WOUNDED SOUL. ...ILL-**  
 555 **ADVISED EXPRESSIONS [CHAFE AS IN ANNOY OR WEAR OUT] THE SPIRIT... AND**  
 556 **OFTEN THE ERRING ONES ARE STIRRED TO REBELLION;** [therefore],  
 557 Advocates... of truth need... the heavenly oil of love. **UNDER ALL**  
 558 **CIRCUMSTANCES, [SPEAK] REPROOF... IN LOVE; THEN OUR WORDS WILL REFORM**  
 559 **[AND] NOT EXASPERATE! CHRIST BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT WILL SUPPLY THE FORCE**  
 560 **AND THE POWER, THIS IS HIS WORK”** (Christ's Object Lessons 337 in VSS  
 561 140.3). Thus, “...You [**WILL**] speak in a meek and lowly spirit; for  
 562 the wrath of man **WORKS NOT** the righteousness of God [(James 1:20)  
 563 and ‘A man of great wrath suffers punishment...’ (Proverbs 19:19)].  
 564 **[RESTORATION OF] THE ERRING [OCCURS] IN NO OTHER WAY THAN IN THE SPIRIT**  
 565 **OF MEEKNESS, GENTLENESS AND TENDER LOVE. [THUS, WE] AVOID ANYTHING**

566 **IN LOOK OR GESTURE, WORD OR TONE THAT SAVORS OF PRIDE OR SELF-**  
 567 **SUFFICIENCY.** Guard yourself against a word or look that would exalt  
 568 you or place your goodness and righteousness in contrast with their  
 569 failings. Beware of the most distant approach to disdain,  
 570 overbearing or contempt. With care avoid every appearance of anger  
 571 and though you use plainness of speech, let there be no reproach, no  
 572 railing accusation... but that of earnest love" (VSS 134.3).

573  
 574 Let your words fall as healing balm upon bruised souls. Then,  
 575 instead of reproof, condemning and taking away the last ray of hope  
 576 that the Sun of Righteousness sheds into hearts [that have erred, you  
 577 will bless others and glorify God]. [In doing so, you will fulfill  
 578 Galatians 6:1 and] **NOT [BE] LIKE DESOLATING HAIL THAT BEATS DOWN AND**  
 579 **DESTROYS THE TENDER HOPE SPRINGING UP IN HEARTS [THAT ARE HUNGRY FOR**  
 580 **WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT]**. Leave not the hungry, starving soul in  
 581 helplessness to perish because you fail to speak words of tenderness  
 582 and encouragement [to one who looks upon his/her mistakes and errors  
 583 until almost driven to desperation] (Our High Calling, {OHC} 295 in  
 584 VSS 155.1).

585  
 586 "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but [only]  
 587 that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace  
 588 unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29). "[You] are the light of the  
 589 world" (Matthew 5:14), positioned to "...show forth the praises of  
 590 Him who... called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1  
 591 Peter 2:9). **"The life, the words and the deportment are the most**  
 592 **forcible argument, the most solemn appeal, to the careless,**  
 593 **irreverent and skeptical. Let the life and character be the strong**  
 594 **arguments for Christianity; then [people] will be compelled to take**  
 595 **knowledge of you that you have been with Jesus and have learned of**  
 596 **Him"** (Acts 4:13 in VSS 53.3). Look to Jesus, the perfect Pattern  
 597 [and] ...pray for the aid of the Holy Spirit, and in His strength  
 598 ...train every organ for perfect work" (VSS 36.2). "Let the words

599 you speak be kind and encouraging" (VSS 37.3) and **"When a stern**  
 600 **reproof is... given it [will] be given in kindness"** {VSS 41.1}.

601  
 602 **"Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. DWELL UPON THE GOOD**  
 603 **QUALITIES OF THOSE WITH WHOM YOU ASSOCIATE AND SEE AS LITTLE AS**  
 604 **POSSIBLE OF THEIR ERRORS AND FAILINGS.** When tempted to complain of  
 605 what someone has said or done, praise something in that person's life  
 606 or character. Cultivate thankfulness. Praise God for His wonderful  
 607 love in giving Christ to die for us" (Ministry of Healing, MH 492 in  
 608 VSS 151.1) and "When tempted to speak words of faultfinding ...sing,  
 609 "Praise ye the Lord" (VSS 152.1): a song popularized by Joachim  
 610 Neander. The words read as follows:

611 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation. O my  
 612 soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who  
 613 hear, Now to His temple draw near; Join ye in glad adoration.

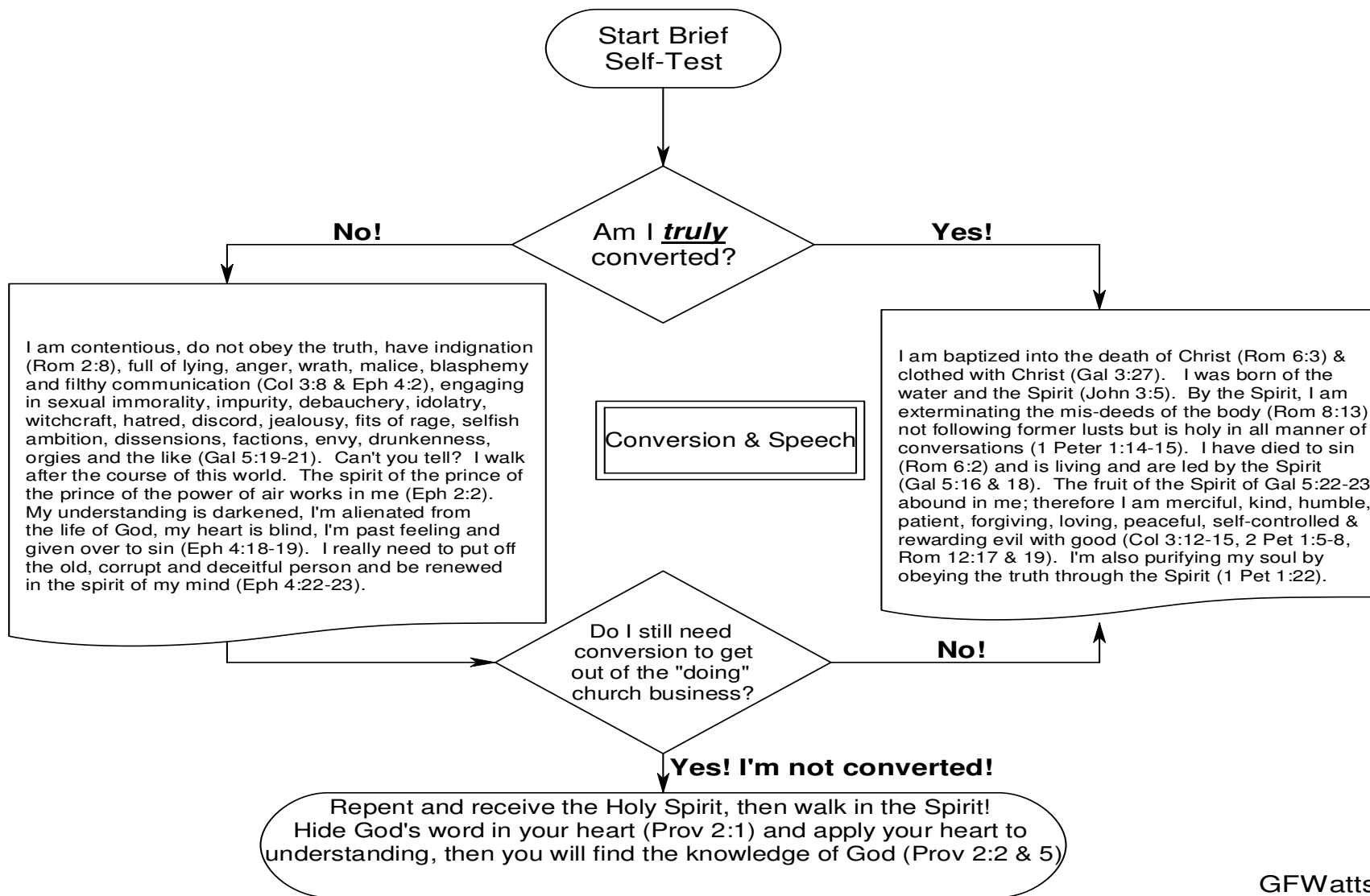
614  
 615 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth.  
 616 Shieldeth thee under His wings, yea so gently sustaineth! Hast  
 617 thou not seen, How thy desires e'er have been, granted in what  
 618 He ordaineth?

619  
 620 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
 621 Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee. Ponder  
 622 anew what the Almighty can do, if with His love He be-friend  
 623 thee.

624  
 625 Finally yet importantly, "...Think and speak modestly of your own  
 626 capabilities and... be careful not to encourage pride and self-esteem  
 627 in others" (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, {5T} 478 in VSS  
 628 152.3). "Every [person] who praises [self] brushes the luster from  
 629 his [/her] best efforts" (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4, {4T}  
 630 607 in VSS 153.2). "The end of all things is at hand. Be... sober

631 and watch unto prayer" (1 Peter 4:7)! A rapid Conversion-Speech  
632 Self-Test appears below. Take the test if you want to!

633



634

GFWatts