

**Proposal Title:** “The Power of the Words We Use Everyday and Why They Matter”

**Program of Study:** Religious Studies/ Psychology

**PowerPoint:** Remote

**Mentor’s Email:** Dr. David Wheeler (dwheeler2@liberty.edu)

**Student name and email:** Rev. Seth C. Peterson (speterson30@liberty.edu)

**Category:** Investigative

### **Abstract**

This paper examines the the power of the words we use everyday. More specifically, the reason we use the words we do, and how the Bible helps us to get to the heart of one’s communication struggles. The value every every piece of human communication is rooted in the fact of God speaks. As we seek to understand the world of human talk, it is vital that we understand it from the perspective of The Bible. We will use various parts of scripture to illustrate the power of words, but primarily will examine Genesis 1. This is the only time in human history where there was no war of words. In Genesis 1, the world of communication was a world of peace, truth, and life. Words were never use his weapons. Truth was never used to tear down. Words were always spoken in love, and human communication never broke the bonds of peace. There was a simplicity in beauty to the world human communication. There was no communication struggle, no war of words. Everything that was spoken reflected the glory of God. There were no arguments and lies, no words of hate, no impatient, irritated reports there’s no yelling, Cursing, or condemnation. There were no words spoken in pride, no deceptive, manipulative words, And no selfish ones. There were only true words, kindly and lovingly spoken. This should be the aim.

One of my main premises in my presentation, is that words should be used to give life. Although none of us are perfect, we can seek to be better agents of grace with our speech. I have sat in class after class about team conflict resolution, leadership, spiritual formation etc. All of which went into great detail about how to be a better communicator, but I don't think they ever talked about the root cause of the matter. The "how to" falls short without the "want to". And the "want to" is rooted in nowhere else but the heart. If a heart has the wrong motives, then we will not be able to speak words of life, but will by default be destructive with the ways we use our words. Remember the phrase, "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say at all." Instead, a better saying for our culture to adopt may be, "If you don't have something nice to say, check your heart to see why you feel that way." It's so easy to justify our actions or to blame other people for the way we feel. But often times, the solution lies with ourselves, it lies with the heart (Jeremiah 17:9). And until we are able to see the root of our destructive or constructive communication, our words will hinder us from or propel us towards our purpose in life.