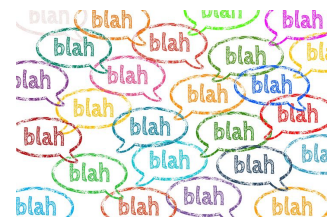


TALKATIVENESS

TEXT: *Ecclesiastes 5:3: For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voices known by multitude of words.*

Ecclesiastes 10:14: A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

Talkativeness is utterly ruinous to deep spirituality. It is one of the greatest hindrances to a deep, solid union with God. Notice how people will tell the same thing over and over:



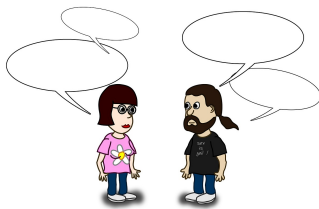
- *how insignificant trifles are magnified by a world of words*
- *how things that should be buried are dragged out into gossip*
- *how something that is worthless and unessential is argued and disputed over*
- *how the solemn, deep things of the Holy Spirit are rattled over in a light manner*

One who has the real baptism of the Divine silence in his heart eventually feels he must unceremoniously tear himself away to some lonely room or forest where he can gather up the fragment of his mind and rest in God.

Not only do we need cleansing from sin, but our natural human spirit needs a radical death to its own noise, activity, and worldliness.

THE EVIL EFFECTS OF SO MUCH TALK

First, it dissipates spiritual power. The thought and feeling of the soul are like powder and steam — the more they are condensed, the greater the power.



Second, it is a waste of time. If the hours spent in useless conversations were spent in secret prayer or deep reading, we would soon reach a region of soul life and divine peace beyond our present dream.

Third, talkativeness inevitably leads to saying unwise, or unpleasant, or unprofitable things. In religious conversation, we soon churn up all

the cream our souls have in them, and the rest of our talk is all pale, skimmed milk until we get alone with God and feed on His green pasture until the cream rises again.

The Holy Spirit warns us that “in the multitude of words there lacketh not sin.”

Proverbs 10:19: In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

It is impossible for even the best of saints to talk beyond a point without saying something unkind, or severe, or foolish, or erroneous. We must settle this personally. If others are noisy and gossip, I must determine to live in constant quietness and humility of heart. I must guard my speech as a sentinel does a fortress, and with all respect for others. I must, many a time, cease from conversation or withdraw from company to enter deep communication with my precious Lord.



To walk in the Spirit we must avoid talking for talk's sake, or merely to entertain. To speak effectively, we must speak in God's appointed time and in harmony with the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 17:27: He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

Isaiah 30:15: In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Ecclesiastes 5:2-3:

² Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in Heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

³ For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

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