



*RCC Phoenix – 10.24.21 – Fortune Cookie Series (Week 5)*

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ False Theology

A. Life and Death Are in the Power of the \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 18:21 NKJV**

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”

*Declare & Decree (False) Theology Statement by a “Christian” Author”:*

“God spoke (declared) all things into existence. Since we are created in His image He has given us the authority and the power to declare over our own lives. You might be declaring over your life without even knowing it. Have you ever said, “I hate my life,” or “My life sucks,” or “I’m so fat and ugly.” These are negative declarations that will bring negative results into your life. I know, I’ve been there. I’ve learned that what I say or what I think brings what I am focusing on into my life. So, now I declare only positive words over my life. I am beginning to see the changes!”

Compare the previous statement to...

*The (secular & new age) philosophy called the Law of Attraction:*

“...designing and reciting affirmations is a powerful way to use words in service of positivity.

Affirmations are just statements that you say to yourself in order to support your goals. You can use ones that directly discuss positivity, like the following:

“I become more positive each day.”

“I am happy, confident, and see the best in others.”

“I am positive and I attract positivity into my life.”

You can also use affirmations that implicitly reinforce your power of positive thinking towards specific goals in your life. For example:

“I have all the qualities I need to be incredibly successful.”

“Every day I move closer to the job of my dreams.”

“I attract love into my life and give it back to the world.”

There are dozens of ways for writing affirmations. What matters is that they make you feel good and that they capture what you want to achieve.”

The declare & decree theology is nothing more than the secular “Law of Attraction” dressed in \_\_\_\_\_ clothes.

This is what the entire passage says:

**Proverbs 18:17-21 NLT**

The first to speak in court sounds right—until the cross-examination begins.

Flipping a coin can end arguments; it settles disputes between powerful opponents.

An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.

Wise words satisfy like a good meal; the right words bring satisfaction.

The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

This passage is not about believers in Christ having the power to speak things into existence with our words.

B. Calling things that are \_\_\_\_\_ as though they \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 4:17 NKJV**

“...calls those things which do not exist as though they did;”

**Romans 4:16-17 NLT**

“So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham’s. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, “I have made you the father of many nations.” This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.”

This Scripture has \_\_\_\_\_ to do with us creating life or opportunities with our words.

It has \_\_\_\_\_ to do with having a faith in the God who can do those things.

What does Scripture say about our words?

- Our Words Must be \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 12:17-19 NLT**

An honest witness tells the truth; a false witness tells lies. Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing. Truthful words stand the test of time, but lies are soon exposed.

**Proverbs 12:22 NLT**

The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth.

- Our Words \_\_\_\_\_ Our Heart

**Luke 6:43-45 NLT**

“A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.”

- We Must \_\_\_\_\_ Our Words

**Proverbs 13:3 NLT**

“Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.”

**Ephesians 4:29 NIV**

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

**2 Corinthians 12:6-10 NLT**

“If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won’t do it, because I don’t want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Many theologians believe the “thorn” Paul refers to was an actual \_\_\_\_\_ in his leg / side that caused him to limp as he walked.

Why didn’t Paul “Declare” his healing? Why didn’t he “Decree” a miracle? Did he not understand his own writing? No. It’s because it \_\_\_\_\_.

Nearly all “fortune cookied” Scriptures point to the elevation of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Bible is not about elevating man. It’s about \_\_\_\_\_ everyone in a dying world back to God!

What does Scripture say we should declare?

**Romans 8:29 AMP**

“And now, Lord, observe their threats [take them into account] and grant that Your bond-servants may declare Your message [of salvation] with great confidence,...”

**Ephesians 6:19-20 ISV**

“Pray also for me, so that, when I begin to speak, the right words will come to me. Then I will boldly make known the secret of the gospel, for whose sake I am an ambassador in chains, desiring to declare the gospel as boldly as I should.”

**1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 NET**

“For you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, about our coming to you—it has not proven to be purposeless. But although we suffered earlier and were mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of much opposition.”

Scripture is clear. We are to declare the Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ to a lost world!