



*By Bob Bowen*

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## **Words Matter Romans 10:17**

From chapter one of Genesis through Revelation, the Bible reveals the influence that words have upon us. This lesson links stages of our lives and how our words affect our destinies.

### **Stage 1 Highlights the part that words played in our creation.** (Genesis 1; John 1)

- God created us in His image, gave us dominion over all living creatures, authority to name every living creature, and commanded us to take care of God's creation. (Read Genesis 2:15, and chapter 4 about Cain & Abel, Revelation 11:18).
- These verses show that the meaning, or power to affect decisions vary from individual to individual; why? Perhaps they were taught differently, practice self-deception, or willfully remain ignorant. (Proverbs 4:1; James 4:17; Deut. 11:18-21).

### **Stage 2 Covers the role of words in childhood.**

- During this period, children learn the meaning of words, and experience emotional ups and downs based on the words they hear, and the tones of voice used.
- A key part of preparing a person to face the world on their own, is training. "If we train a child in the way he should go, . . . when [they are] old [they] will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).
- Ephesians 6:4 makes it clear that words alone are not enough. Behavior illustrates whether we believe what we have taught is true. ". . ., fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

### **Stage 3 Comprises early adolescence to adulthood.**

- Some people consider this time, as the time when we reach the age of accountability.
- By this age we should have learned survival skills, obtained a sound basic education, developed skills, and be able to discern the truth. (Hosea 4:6; John 8:32)

### **Stage 4 Encompasses the time when physical and emotional maturity is reached.**

- God expects us to mature spiritually as we mature physically: "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things" 1 Corinthians 13:11.
- At this age, knowledge and experience should intersect and wisdom grow. (Proverbs 2:10-11)
- Words brought us into existence; the words we learned growing up brought us happiness, or despair. But only the word of God brings salvation. You have heard the word. It's up to you to believe and follow the ways of God. He eagerly waits to hear your words: "I believe that Christ is the Son of the living God."