

Pleasant Springs Church

12-Week Study · A Quantum Case For God

WEEK 12 OF 12

Living in a Spoken World

Application — speak life, agree with what God has spoken

THE BIG IDEA

If the universe is a sustained Word, then we — image-bearers of the speaking God — are not noise but music in his song. Our own speech, on this account, is not trivial. Words of life build up; words of death tear down. Walking with the Logos means agreeing with what he has spoken — about us, about each other, about the world, about himself. Eleven weeks of physics and theology come down to this: **what will you say with the breath he gave you?**

Eleven weeks behind us. We have looked at the Big Bang and Genesis 1:1, at QED and the omnipresence of God, at wave-particle duality and the unseen realities, at entanglement and the body of Christ, at the quantum eraser and divine omniscience, at vibrating strings and the spoken Word, at extra dimensions and the heavenly realms, at time and the eternal God, and at the four faithful readings of Genesis. Each week has been a different angle on the same central claim: **God speaks; reality answers.**

This last week is application. Physics is interesting, theology is essential, but information that does not change the way you walk into next Tuesday is information you have not really received. So we ask: *If we live in a spoken world, what does it mean to live well in it?* The biblical answer is simple and uncomfortable. We were made in the image of a speaking God. We are little speakers within the great speaking. Our words matter.

SCRIPTURE

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Genesis 1:26–27 · In Our Image

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

²⁶καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Θεός· ποιήσωμεν ἄνθρωπον κατ' εἰκόνα ἡμετέραν καὶ καθ' ὁμοίωσιν... ²⁷καὶ ἐποίησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν ἄνθρωπον, κατ' εἰκόνα Θεοῦ ἐποίησεν αὐτόν, ἄρσεν καὶ θήλυ ἐποίησεν αὐτούς.

English Standard Version

²⁶Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...' ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Proverbs 18:21 · Death and Life in the Tongue

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

θάνατος καὶ ζωὴ ἐν χειρὶ γλώσσης, οἱ δὲ κρατοῦντες αὐτῆς ἔδονται τοὺς καρπούς αὐτῆς.

English Standard Version

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Ephesians 4:29 · Words That Build Up

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

πᾶς λόγος σαπρὸς ἐκ τοῦ στόματος ὑμῶν μὴ ἐκπορευέσθω, ἀλλ' εἴ τις ἀγαθὸς πρὸς οἰκοδομὴν τῆς χρείας, ἵνα δῶ χάριν τοῖς ἀκούουσι.

English Standard Version

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

James 3:5–6, 9–10 · The Tongue Is a Fire

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

⁵οὕτω καὶ ἡ γλῶσσα μικρὸν μέλος ἐστὶ καὶ μεγαλαυχεῖ. Ἴδοὺ ὀλίγον πῦρ ἠλίκην ὕλην ἀνάπτει... ⁹ἐν αὐτῇ εὐλογοῦμεν τὸν Θεὸν καὶ πατέρα, καὶ ἐν αὐτῇ καταρώμεθα τοὺς ἀνθρώπους τοὺς καθ' ὁμοίωσιν Θεοῦ γεγονότας· ¹⁰ἐκ τοῦ αὐτοῦ στόματος ἐξέρχεται εὐλογία καὶ κατάρρα. οὐ χρή, ἀδελφοί μου, ταῦτα οὕτω γίνεσθαι.

English Standard Version

⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!... ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

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Colossians 1:17 · In Him All Things Hold Together

Septuagint (LXX) / Greek New Testament

καὶ αὐτός ἐστι πρὸ πάντων καὶ τὰ πάντα ἐν αὐτῷ συνέστηκεν.

English Standard Version

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

THE BIBLICAL CASE

Image-Bearers of the Speaking God

Genesis 1:26 says God made humanity in his image. The image is many things, but one of them is unmistakable: God speaks, and we are the only creature on the planet that speaks back. Animals communicate; only humans *linguistically symbolize*. The image of God in us includes our tongue. If the universe is a sustained Word, then we are little speakers participating in that speaking. We do not create matter with our mouths, but we create realities with them — covenants, promises, blessings, curses, marriages, songs, prayers, stories, lies, truth.

Speak Life

Proverbs 18:21 is one of the most underestimated verses in scripture. *Death and life are in the power of the tongue*. Not *death and life are influenced by the tongue*; they are *in* it. James 3 puts it even more starkly: with the same mouth we bless God and curse people made in his image, and this *ought not to be so*. After eleven weeks of appreciating that the world is sustained by the speech of God, the application to our own speech is not optional. We were made to bless. To use the tongue for anything else is to use it against the grain of creation.

Agree With What God Has Spoken

The deepest spiritual discipline of the Christian life is learning to *agree* with what God has spoken — about himself (he is good), about the world (it is fallen but redeemable), about other people (they bear his image), and about you (you are loved, you are called, you are being made new). Most Christian struggle is at root a refusal to agree with something God has said. Most Christian peace is found by quietly agreeing again. The Greek word translated *confess* (*homologeō*) literally means *to say the same thing as*. Confession is agreement. To live well in a spoken world is to spend your days saying back what God has already said.

And Now, the Sending

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You are not noise. You are music in his singing. Your words have weight in a universe sustained by his Word. Walk into the next twelve weeks of your life remembering that the Logos who holds your atoms in place is also the Logos who has spoken his pleasure over you in Christ. Speak life. Bless your enemies. Tell the truth. Sing to the Lord with all your heart. And when you preach the gospel to any creature, remember: *the same word that holds the brick wall together is the word that holds the universe together is the word that has come to save you.* Speak that word.

THE CONVERGENCE

Eleven weeks of quantum physics — from the Big Bang to vibrating strings to extra dimensions to time — have all pointed to the same fact: the universe is a sustained Word. Week twelve's application is the only honest one: **say back what God has said.** Agree with him. Speak life. Bless. Tell the truth. You are an image-bearer of the speaking God in a universe held together by his speech. Live like it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Looking back across the twelve weeks, which lesson lodged in you most deeply? Why?
2. Where in your life is your tongue being used *against* the grain of creation right now? What would repentance look like?
3. What is one specific thing God has spoken (in scripture or in your life) that you are struggling to *agree* with right now?
4. Who in your life needs you to speak life over them this week? What specifically would that sound like?
5. James 3 says we cannot bless God and curse people in the same breath. Where do you most need to repent of inconsistency in your speech?
6. If you were going to share *one* insight from these twelve weeks with a non-Christian friend, what would it be?
7. Pray Colossians 1:17 over your day, every day, for the next week. Report back to your small group on what changes.

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CLOSING PRAYER

*Lord of the spoken universe, you are still speaking. The atoms in this room are sustained by your Word as we pray. The galaxies are sustained by your Word as we pray. The cells dividing in the wombs of expectant mothers are sustained by your Word as we pray. We marvel that you have made us in your image — speaking creatures within your speaking world. Forgive every word we have spoken that has cursed instead of blessed, that has torn down instead of built up, that has lied instead of told the truth. Set a guard over our mouths, Lord; keep watch over the door of our lips. Make us agreement-singers with your eternal song. Send us out from these twelve weeks speaking life over every soul you put in our path, until the day you call us home and we hear, at last, the Word of welcome from your own lips: well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Lord. Through Jesus Christ, the Logos in whom all things hold together. **Amen.***

Week 12 of 12 — A Quantum Case For God, a Pleasant Springs Church discipleship series. The complete 12-week study, and every other lesson, is at ps-church.com/discipleship/quantum-case-for-god