

When to speak and when not to!

I have learned through the Word of God that there are certain things and information you do not have to share or must take your time before sharing it. Some people are not at a place where they can handle certain information and it could cause havoc or even devastate them. In other cases, you want to share little by little. We need to take time and ponder (meditate) on what the Lord is showing us. Sometimes too much too early information may be detrimental.

We need to be sensitive to say the right thing, in the right way, at the right time, to the right **person**.

There are four responses that we need to train ourselves to give to people at all the right time.

- a) Yes (Yea) If you know.
- b) No (Nay) If you do not want to tell them. They cannot be trusted with it, and they are not mature with information.
- c) I do not know. This is if you do not KNOW regardless of if you would be willing to tell them or not.
- d) I can't tell you. This means someone knows but is not in a position to share certain information.
 - i) It could be because it is too much for them to handle.
 - ii) It is very sensitive such as secrets or highly classified information,
 - iii) It is above their pay grade.
 - iv) It serves them no benefit to know.
 - v) It is too much it could hurt them and expose them to danger.

This is what I'm speaking about in this teaching. There are certain things that we cannot talk about for whatever reason and therefore we should learn what to share and what not to share.

During my time as country director, I discovered one of the most valuable lessons and I'm growing in this area I consider myself a very honest and straight-up guy in my communications. I naturally trust quicker, and I use transparency as one of the ways to develop relationships and connect with people.

This caused me a lot of problems to the point where I have made up my mind to share little to no information. My closest and best friend told me that while is a good thing in a way, without caution,

and if done excessively it was a weakness that needed to be addressed and Satan could use it to hurt me.

Transparency in light of sharing information while can be a good thing, can turn out to be a dangerous thing especially if the information is in the hands of the immature, wrong people, and /or "babes". These babes may have a good heart, but they are not ready for certain information. They are babes.

I have learned that just because someone is close to you does not mean he can be trusted with certain information. Some can use it to hold you ransom and blackmail you, flip-flop on you, or spin it and blow it out of proportion to hurt you or bring you down and probably use it when they are not happy with you for whatever reason. If one does not like you, you will have multiple boomerangs.

Don't make the same mistake, leader. Information is very valuable, and it is not for everyone or anyone.

You must make a judgment call—(maturity judgment, trustworthy Judgment, privacy judgment, and emotional intelligence judgment) about **what, where, when, how**, and to **whom** you are to share certain information.

However, the heart of all this should not be to **conceal but one be discreet** in what we share and how we share it and to follow the command and leading from the Lord which we might not have done had we revealed certain things to someone else.

Jesus knew all men

John 2:23-24 Jesus did not commit Himself unto them even though they had believed on Him. Reason? He knew all men.

- a) He saw the people on a heart level. This is a powerful leadership lesson not to commit ourselves to all just because they believe in us and speak well of us. We need to be careful. One mentor of mine said to me, "Where there is honey, there are bee stingers."

John 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto You, but ye cannot bear them now."

- a) One of the things Jesus was saying was that they were not ready. The timing was off. He was not saying he never could, but He was speaking of the now. He wanted to, but they weren't there yet.
- b) At the right time, the Holy Ghost was going to reveal, guide, and show them what they needed to know.
- c) Jesus made a judgment to share or not to—a call we all need to make daily as we deal with personal or other information.

It is not for you to know

Act 1:6-7 *When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt that at this time restore again the Kingdom of Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in his own power.*

- a) Jesus revealed nothing to the disciples. I believe he was tempted to. What they sought to know was above them. It was not for them to know. They were going way too far with their request. Notice Jesus did not say "Do not tell anyone. I will tell you. It's a 'secret.'"
- b) Some things are not for us or some people to know PERIOD. They are for others. We need to remember this in sharing information. Two, what good does it do for a certain person to know?
- c) Jesus was not going to reveal anything to them under any circumstances. The information they sought was above their pay grade.
- d) Some Information is reserved for certain stages of growth, maturity, and leadership. It can only be shared upward, not downward. With superiors, not equals or direct reports.
- e) There is a fine line between what to share and what not to share. Certain information is not for certain ears, hearts, or levels of maturity.

Hold your peace

1. *Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.*
2. *Mark 14:61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?*
 - a) The words "hold your peace" or held his peace" is used mostly in the King James version of the Bible but it is very telling.
 - b) If you talk when you are not supposed to, or talk more than you should, we do not hold our peace. We let it loose. Peace is in our mouths, in our words. We will experience peace to the degree we hold peace. When we talk more than we should or when we should not, we will not have peace.
 - c) Jesus held His peace on some occasions.

Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 22:3 *And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and cleaved the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.*

- a) Abraham did not share with Sarah or Isaac that he was going to sacrifice him. Heaven knows what Sarah could have done. This was her only long-awaited son. There could have been a fighting match between them, if not a **world war**.
- b) There is no record of Abraham telling Sarah that the Lord had instructed him to sacrifice their only son. Sarah had been desperate for a child to the point of telling Abraham to go into her maid. I believe she would not have received this well.
- c) Abraham had to make that Judgment call for both and let God reveal what needs to be revealed to them.
- d) From what I have learned and I'm still learning Sarah and Isaac were not ready for that Information, and it could have hurt them, not blessed them.
- e) It is often wise not to speak about things that we know others (close or around us) will not receive or will have a hard time believing or certain directions that God has given us or is leading us to do.

If we do;

- i) We can face opposition that many times can cause us to waver.
- ii) Many will not be in faith about it and may resist and rebel against it.
- iii) It can also cause fear as many do not see what you see, or God has not shown them what He has shown you.

I'm not going to sit here and say someone has communicated perfectly. No one has. Sometimes we misspeak or overspeak. You will and you have. Let's face it! Here is where we need to draw a line. We need to minimize revealing too much that could be used to oppose us, go against us, and or hurt us. At the same time, I do not want to remove the opportunity to share with those we believe are mature and we should share.

Joseph and Mary (Matthew 1:18-21)

Matthew 1:18 *"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."*

- a) There is no indication that Mary shared the news of her pregnancy with Joseph. The Passage above mentions that Joseph found her with a child meaning that it was by observation. Mary had left to go be with Elizabeth (Luke 1:38-41) and when she returned from her cousin Elizabeth, she was pregnant. Luke 1:56 *And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.*
- b) The wisdom in Mary not saying a word is very telling. She could have screwed everything up. She relied on the Lord telling Joseph which God did in a dream.

- c) Joseph could have had difficulty believing these things from Mary. She rather trusted the LORD to somehow find a way to reveal to him her pregnancy and He did. Mary couldn't convince Joseph. That was not something to be shared with him. It was beyond Mary's comprehension as well.

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 2:12 *And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.*

- a) Nehemiah was wise in not sharing the details of his mission and work with everyone. He did not tell **any man**. He had a chosen few people that he told.

One of the other reasons to not share or share less is some people may not be in faith about it and work against what we have shared. They may resist, speak unbelief, rebel, or outright oppose it. Sarah is a good example of this. In Genesis 18:9-15, at the visitation of the three men who brought good tidings that Sarah was going to conceive and bring forth child, Sarah laughed. She was in unbelief which is why she is rebuked a few verses later. This information was too much for her, yet she needed to hear it to participate and believe God. Faith is according to knowledge. Zachariah is another perfect example of this. In Luke 1:17-20, Angel Gabriel appeared to him and gave him good tidings about having a son and he believed not the words of the angel and immediately he was muted and not able to speak until the child was born.

Acts 18:9—We should not be afraid to speak. There is an appropriate time and people to share certain things with. We just need to master whom to speak to and when, while we also assess their maturity level to handle and keep certain information to themselves.

Honesty and transparency are not synonymous with sharing and revealing everything. Discernment must be used even when we are sharing our hearts.

In the effort of sharing your heart, it could be misconstrued and wrongly interpreted, and used against you. Sharing your heart does not mean you say everything to anyone at any time.

Truth be said, some people cannot be trusted, at least not yet. We need to share small bits of Information and see how they can handle it.

- a) Proverbs 17:9 *“He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeats a matter separateth very friends.”*
- b) Proverbs 11:13 *“A talebearer revealeth Secrets: but he that is of a faithful Spirit concealed the matter.”*
 - i) However, the heart of all this should not be to conceal but one be discreet in what we share and how we share it and to follow the command and leading from the Lord which we might not have done had we revealed certain things to someone else.

- c) Proverbs 16:28 *“A froward man soweth strife and a whisperer separateth chief friends.”*
- d) Proverbs 18:8 *“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”* (Proverbs 26:22).
- e) Proverbs 26:20 *“Where no wood is, there the fire goes out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.”*
 - i) Wood is fuel to fire but notice that Words are likened to wood. When you want to put the fire or strife out, you need to cut the words

Hurting Times

Times when we are hurting are one of the times, we tend to share way more than we should. Because we want to be heard and understood, we are hurting, trying to defend and justify ourselves, we are in fear; we tend to let out more than we should. We need to be smart and cautious even during those times.

1. Proverbs 18:13 *He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, It is folly and shame unto him.*
 - a) We learn not to be quick with our words. We need to hear the whole matter before we say what we want and have to. This is another way we can watch and control what we say.
2. Proverbs 18:17 brings out another reason— *“He that is first in his own cause semeeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him?”*
 - a) We are tempted to say more than we should because someone was the first to come to us. we need to hold our peace and hear both sides out.
 - b) Just because someone came first doesn't make them right.

Speak Your mind, right? Uh, maybe not!

We have all heard people say speak your mind—Speak, hold not back. This is a wrong approach. Why?

1. Proverbs 29:11 *“A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.”*
 - a) A wise man keeps it in to study how to answer prudently. Some things can't be said.
 - b) When you say everything, you think. You are not wise. A wise person thinks through what he will say. Do not just say the first thing on your mind.
2. Proverbs 10:19 *In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.*

- a) In the many words we speak we won't miss to error. To limit error and sin, we need to limit the words we speak.
 - b) It is wisdom to refrain. This could be misused by some people though. When you refrain from speaking some will conclude that you are guilty. Refraining from speaking does not mean one is guilty, but wise and keeping his soul from troubles (Proverbs 21:23).
3. Proverbs 12:13 *The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.*
 - a) Words can be a snare unto us. We need to come out of trouble by refraining.
 4. Proverbs 17:27-28 *He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.*
 5. Proverbs 15:28 *"The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth forth evil things."*
 6. Proverbs 18:2 (NKJV) *"A fool has no understanding, but in expressing his own heart."*
 7. Psalm 141:3 *"Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."*
 - a) This passage reveals a dependency upon the Lord. Indeed, there is nothing we can do outside our dependency upon God this includes the words we say.

Keepeth his mouth = guard, to protect, attend to, to hedge about (as with thorns)

1. Proverbs 21:23 *"Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."*
 - a) Let's face it—most of our troubles are a direct link to our words. What we say, how much we say when we say could reduce or increase our troubles.
 - b) We need to guard our soul (mind, will, and emotions) from troubles and one of the ways we do that is through watching, guarding, and setting a watch over our mouth.
 - c) We can't delegate this responsibility to another. It is a personal responsibility. You keep your mouth.
2. Proverbs 13:3 *He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.*

- a) Keeping = guarding or setting a watch over our mouth = Keeping our life. Guarding our mouth is speaking about not speaking foolishly and everything—being careful when and how we speak.
 - b) Opening our mouth wide = speaking or revealing too much or more than is necessary.
3. Psalm 34:12-13 *What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? 13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.*
- a) Do you desire life, love many days, and see good days (1 Peter 3:10)? Well, this is down to keeping your tongue from evil or words we speak and ensure we aren't speaking guile. If you do not guard your tongue or mouth, you do not desire life and love many days and see good.
 - b) 1 Peter 3:10 *"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:"*

None of your business

Proverbs 26:17 *He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.*

I stayed with a guy who could and would take your ear off. He would never be quiet. I later discovered he had no job and had nothing to do. Furthermore, he was secretly meddling in my affair life and business. He was a busybody, and he went about telling and talking about things he had no business doing and he only created problems. He was wood to the fire and strife.

Because of this, he almost got bitten. He almost got himself in trouble about things he knew nothing about.

We need to be careful not to engage in affairs that do not belong to us especially if we have not been invited in lest we get hurt.

Slow to speak

1. Proverbs 29:20 *"Seeth that a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him."*
2. James 1:19 *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:*

Someone once said God gave us two ears and one mouth—so we can hear twice as much as we speak.

- a) We shouldn't rush with or in our words. Remember keeping or guarding our moth (tongue and words) equals preventing troubles (Proverbs 21:23; 13:3).

- b) We need to take our time (Proverbs 29:11) even when we are hurting and mad. We need to be slow to speak and to reveal or share information until we have trusted, weighed, vetted, and seen the maturity of the recipient.
 - c) If you speak the first thing that comes to your mind, gear up for trouble. You are headed for it.
 - d) We need not speak rashly, nor overly express our wisdom.
 - e) This passage reveals that a fool is better off. A fool is one who doesn't believe there is a God.
3. Ecclesiastes 5:2,6 *"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. 6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?"*
 - a) Be not rash with thy mouth. Let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God.
 - b) Letting words be few.
 - c) Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin.
 4. Ecclesiastes 9:17 *"The words of a wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools."*
 - a) When wise men speak, their words may not be heard but when one gets quiet, they will hear more. Being quiet is key to hearing
 5. Proverbs 18:21 *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."*
 6. Amos 5:13 *"Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time."*
 7. Ephesians 4:29 *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."*
 8. Psalms 101:5 *Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.*