

August 4, 2026

## Honor Changes The Way I Speak

*August Series: Christ-Centered Relationships*

*Week Focus: Put Honor First*

**Scripture – Proverbs 15:1** - *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”*

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### Devotional Reflection

Our words have incredible power. In just a few moments, they can bring encouragement or discouragement, healing or hurt, peace or conflict. Every conversation presents an opportunity to either communicate honor or diminish it. That is why Proverbs 15:1 reminds us that **“a gentle answer turns away wrath.”** Honor is often heard long before it is ever seen. The way we speak has the ability to strengthen relationships, calm tense situations, and reflect the character of Christ.

The words we choose reveal what is taking place in our hearts. When our hearts are filled with pride, impatience, or frustration, those attitudes eventually find their way into our conversations. But when Christ is transforming us from the inside out, our speech begins to change. We become slower to react, quicker to encourage, and more intentional about speaking words that build others up. Honor is not simply avoiding harsh language; it is choosing words that communicate value, dignity, grace, and respect.

Jesus consistently demonstrated this kind of speech throughout His ministry. Whether He was speaking to His disciples, a broken sinner, a religious leader, or even someone who opposed Him, His words were always purposeful and filled with both truth and grace. He corrected without condemning, challenged without humiliating, and loved without compromising truth. His conversations consistently reflected the value He placed on people. As followers of Christ, we are called to let our words reveal that same heart of honor.

Think about the conversations you will have today. Before responding to a family member, coworker, friend, or even a stranger, pause for a moment and ask yourself, **“Will my words leave this person feeling valued?”** Sometimes honoring someone is not about saying more—it is about saying the right thing with the right spirit. A gentle response, a sincere compliment, or a simple word of encouragement can become the very instrument God uses to strengthen someone’s heart and change the direction of a relationship.

Today, invite the Holy Spirit to guard your tongue and guide your conversations. Let every word you speak become an opportunity to reflect Christ. When your speech is marked by kindness, wisdom, and grace, you create an environment where relationships flourish and where others experience the love of God through you. Honor begins in the heart, but it is often revealed through the words we choose to speak.

## Focus for Today

Honor is communicated through words that build up, encourage, and reflect the grace of Christ.

## Practice

- Begin your day by asking the Holy Spirit to guide your conversations.
  - Before responding in every important conversation today, pause and ask yourself:  
**“Will these words communicate honor?”**
  - Intentionally encourage at least one person with words that remind them they are seen, appreciated, and valued.
  - Throughout the day, ask yourself: **“Do my words reflect the heart of Christ?”**
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## Prayer

Father, thank You for the gift of speech and for the opportunity to use my words to glorify You. Forgive me for the times my words have been careless, impatient, or hurtful. Fill my heart with Your love so that my speech reflects Your grace. Teach me to respond with gentleness, speak with wisdom, and encourage those You place in my path. May every conversation today communicate the value You have placed on others and point them to the love of Jesus Christ. In His name, Amen.

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## Reflection Question

**What conversation today gives you the greatest opportunity to communicate honor through your words, and what will you say differently?**