

# Using Words to Power Relationships

*Song of Songs 1:7-2:7*

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Spoken words not only matter to us experientially, but theologically, and biblically (Prov. 10:11, Matt 12:36), and also in the church. Speech is what separates us from animals. Our relationship with God and others around us are unbelievably affected by words.

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### **1. The wife's negative self-image**

The words that we speak to ourselves matter. The bride was talking negatively to herself and her friends that she paled in comparison to them in external beauty because of the scarce resources and time she had for herself (Song 1:5-6). Yet she recognised that she was beautiful on the inside (Songs 1:5). At a deepest level, having a low perception of self in comparison to others is a worship issue. What we find amazing is what we worship. Comparison is a cheap substitute for the worship of God. Much of the comparison happens because of the words people have spoken to us or our negative self-talk. Secured in her marriage, the bride turned to her husband with her insecurities (v. 7).

### **2. The Husband's Positive Response**

The husband responds to his wife lovingly and playfully (vv. 8-10). The bridesmaids also affirm all that the husband says to the bride (v. 11). Beyond her insecurities, the bride expresses her love to her husband through her teasing and playful words (v. 7), which her husband responds to. There is a depth and beauty in expressing love with words. The fun and play in a marriage is important. The oasis that God provides from the hardship of marriage and parenting is in the fun, playful and loving friendship of the couple. The husband's response negates the bride's negative self-talk. Every wife needs her husband's

positive words that come from his heart (vv. 9-10).

The husband liked the way his wife smelled (v. 12). The wife and husband referred to each other as 'my beloved'; *dodi* in Hebrew; which means erotic passionate love (vv. 13-16). The change in the wife's self-image (Song 2:1) was shaped by the affirming words of her husband (Song 1:15). The husband continues to build his wife up (Song 2:2) and she responds delightfully (Song 2:3). The wife felt loved and protected (Song 2:4) and called for a break from all the intimate love-making (Song 2:5-6). The wife then turns to the bridesmaids [single people](Song 2:7).

### **3. The Lessons For Us**

#### #1 A godly marriage is a safe place for both the husband and wife.

Song 1:14 – En Gedi was a place of rest and retreat. The love and intimacy the couple had was a safe place. Safe and secure love and sex can only happen within the boundaries of covenant marriage; the giving of your whole self to another (one body, spirit, love and life). Sex is only safe in and within marriage, never outside (Song 2:7).

#### #2 Words build up and power relationships.

Right communication happens when we are speaking and building one another up by affirming and encouraging. This brings about the safety, security and freedom in a relationship. There can be no safety without the building up of a relationship with words. The life of Jesus perfectly displayed this: He built up the ugly and corrupt church with His intimate and loving words and by His death on the cross, the church is made beautiful (Isa. 60:7).