

MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



I started smoking when I was nine years old and smoked for many years. I liked it! So when I decided to stop, it was really difficult for me.

Every time I tried to quit, I'd last a few hours and then I'd be running around, digging cigarette butts out of the trash or looking for cigarettes in my coat pockets – anywhere I could think to look for them!

I didn't have success until I got a revelation: I was burying myself in defeat with negative confessions.

I had to stop talking myself out of my victory.

Thankfully, I finally realized that I was causing myself to fail through the negative things I was saying about myself. For a long time I would say, "I just know I could never quit smoking. And if I did, I'd probably gain a lot of weight."

But God was able to get through to me eventually and help me see that if I didn't change the way I was talking, I wouldn't change. Then, He began to put a desire in my heart to start speaking what I wanted, not what I had.

I started saying things like, "I can't stand to smoke! These things stink and they're expensive. I don't smoke anymore!"

At first, I felt silly doing this because I would make these declarations while I was smoking. However, within about a week of changing my confession, I realized I now had the grace of God to

quit smoking.

What I learned from this experience is I cannot rise above my own confession. And I discovered it takes two things to get the mouth under control: a lot of help from God and discipline and self-control.

God taught me to talk like Him.

Proverbs 18:21 says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue..." And Hebrews 4:14 says that Jesus is our great High Priest and we should "hold fast our confession [of faith and cling tenaciously to our absolute trust in Him as Savior]" (AMPC).

The word confession means "to say the same thing as." As the High Priest of our confession, Jesus can only do what we're saying that agrees with His Word. So it's vital for us as Christians to learn how to speak the Word of God and not just say things based on our feelings or what other people have said about us.

Now, I believe we'll have greater success with this if we concentrate on what we should be doing with our mouth, rather than focusing on all the things we shouldn't say. It's self-defeating to go around saying things like, "I shouldn't do that... I'd better not do this..."

I want to encourage you to really listen to yourself and locate yourself. Where's your heart? The Bible says out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (see Luke 6:45). We need to stop saying, "Oh, I didn't mean that. I was just kidding." And we need to start being accountable for the words we speak.

The truth is, the things we say come from something that is formed in our heart. So you can determine where your heart is by listening to yourself. You can hear bitterness and jealousy...insecurity and unhappiness.

How do you talk while you're going through a hard time? Or when you don't get what you want? Remember that what you say

reveals the real you!

Changing the way you talk will change your heart.

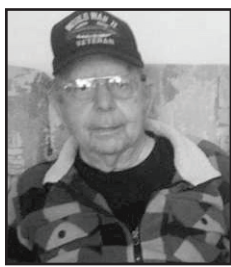
Do you need a change of heart? All of us do. We all have room to grow in our relationship with God. And the way to make progress is to speak His language. When you do, you'll...

- Bless everything you can possibly bless. The Bible says we have the power to bless or curse with the words of our mouth. (See James 3:8-10.)
- Be thankful and say so! (See Psalm 100:4.) Don't just think about how much you appreciate someone – tell them!
- Be an encourager. Make an effort to give someone an encouraging word every day.
- Tell the truth!
- Speak the Word of God. Recite and memorize verses that deal with things you want to change or overcome, such as anger, unforgiveness, insecurity...
- Stop talking too much. Be quick to hear and slow to speak. (See James 1:19.)

God wants you to pray and ask Him to help you use your mouth to say the right things. When you do, it will change your life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching CD series Change Your Words, Change Your Life. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including Battlefield of the Mind and 20 Ways to Make Every Day Better (Hachette). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.



Jim was born in Hazelgreen, Missouri in 1933 to George and Elsie Dougan. At age 17 his family moved to Myrtle Creek, Oregon. He served two years in the Army while stationed in Germany. After his honorable discharge he met and married the love of his life, Sylvia, and they moved to Cottage Grove to start a family.

They spent 60 years together. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, Christine (Mike) McCowen, Rena Dougan, and Tammy (Mike) Hatling, nine grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren. Jim passed away Sunday, June 11, 2017 surrounded by his devoted family at the age of 84. He was a dedicated husband and father that will be greatly missed by all of us. A service will be held 12 p.m. Saturday, July 1 at the Elks Lodge in Cottage Grove. A potluck will follow the service.



Craig M. Beaver, 64, of Cottage Grove died June 13, 2017.

He was born Aug. 27, 1952 in Bremerton, Wash. to Cecil and Joyce (Kinder) Beaver. After graduating from Madison High School in Clairemont, Calif., he worked in construction, high rise scaffold, and was a machinist at

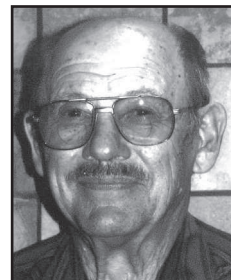
Kimwood.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, cruising on his Harley, and playing and watching baseball. (Go Yankees!)

On Aug. 26, 1975 in San Diego, Calif., he and Lyndee Curlutu were married.

Survivors include his wife, Lyndee, mother, Joyce Cook, a son, James Jr. of Oregon, three daughters, Stacey of Oregon, Coree of Nevada, and Jacque of California, two sisters, Linda of Missouri and Teresa of California, a brother, Doug of California, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A private family service will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills, Cottage Grove.



Lloyd E. Myers, 89, of Cottage Grove passed away April 27, 2017.

He was born Aug. 15, 1927 to Arthur Ray and Martha Anna (Lake) Myers on the family farm in the Delight Valley area. Lloyd attended Delight Valley School and even worked for the teacher by getting the fire going in the stove each morning to

warm the classroom.

On Sept. 8, 1951 at the United Methodist Church in Grants Pass, Oregon, he and Janice J. Swanson were married.

He worked at the Wheeldryer Tire Shop, drove log truck and then retired as an electrician. Later he worked as

a campground host with wife, Jan, at Rujada and Breitenbush forest service campgrounds.

He enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, bowling, and time with family and friends. He was a member of EEE Camp Club, Moose, International Brothers Electrical Workers Union 280. He was presented with a 50 year award from the IBEW 280.

Survivors include three daughters, Kandis Bachmeier (Ken) of Harrisburg, Becky Chase (Rick) of Cottage Grove and Kimmy Hampton (Kevin) of Cottage Grove, a son, Scott Myers of Cottage Grove, a sister, Opal Houghton of Melbourne, Florida, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife on Sept. 7, 2008, and by a great-grandson, Gregory Morales.

A private memorial was held June 10, 2017 at Wells Family Cemetery in Elkton, Oregon with inurnment following.

Cremation was done by Andreasons of Springfield and memorial arrangements were privately done by family.

Celebration of Life
Sheri Lee Schneider's
Celebration of Life & Potluck will be held
from 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Sunday, July 2, 2017
at Middlefield Estates
Club House, Cottage Grove, OR



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