

The Power of Words

Most of the innumerable words that have been spoken since the creation of the world have been forgotten. Some words, however, are remembered by the recipient for years. These are the words that wound others and the words that build up/affirm.

The Tongue

James 3:1-12 gives a word picture of the tongue. We are told that mastering control of the tongue is the secret to the control of self in other ways. The tongue is compared to a tiny spark that sets a great forest on fire causing a blazing flame of destruction. The fire can be extinguished but the charred remains are left as words can not be retracted.

Our words are like a boomerang. Throw them out and they come back, sometimes to hit us in the head. The more we control our words spoken to others and how we receive those spoken back to us the more free we become. We should guard the words we speak, both to ourselves (self talk) and to others.

As we learn to be more secure in our uniqueness we have less need to correct, set other's straight, or allow anger to flare up. It is wise to check our motives when speaking.

Our prayer as Christians should be, *"Take control of what I say, O Lord, and keep my lips sealed,"* (Psalms 141:3 NLT).

Man's Word – Regard For Others/Self

We should treat others with kindness and give thought before we speak hastily. The Bible gives clear instructions about correcting a brother/sister in sin, (Matthew 18:15).

Thought should be given to the words we speak over ourselves. If we constantly "put ourselves down" by speaking rejection, defeat, or disaster of varying degrees, these very things then rush in to fill up the atmosphere around us. Our negative words provide a way for our enemy, Satan to use them against us.

We eventually become what we speak.

E.W. Kenyon states in his book, *The Power of Your Words*, "Every time you confess disease and weakness and failure, you magnify the adversary above the Father, and you destroy your own confidence in the Word. Don't magnify Satan above the Father."

Our words are a self-fulfilling prophecy. They register on our spirits and control us. When we speak against ourselves it is like stabbing the creation God made as He formed us in our mother's womb.

We also learn to evaluate what others say to us and about us. We then simply do not accept within our inner persons what is spoken that is untrue. We don't have to become angry or retaliate. Just examine what is said. If it is not true we do not let the words penetrate our spirit and disrupt our peace.

Eternal Word

Much of what has been addressed is in the realm of human words. Now we will consider the Word that is eternal and stands firm in the heavens, (Psalms 119:89). That Word will not return void and will accomplish what He pleases and it shall prosper in the thing for which He sent it, (Isaiah 55:11). That word is the Word of the Lord. There are myriads of promises for the follower of Jesus Christ contained within the pages of the Bible, God's Word to His people. It is helpful to keep some of these at hand and declare them aloud.

Examples are:

1. The Lord is the strength of my life, (Psalms 27:1)
2. I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength, (Philippians 4:13).
3. No weapon formed against me shall prosper, (Isaiah 54:17).
4. He forgives all my sins – He heals all my diseases, (Psalm 103:3).
5. He sent His Word and healed me, (Psalm 107:20).
6. We are more than conquerors, (Romans 8:37).

Feeding Faith Versus Fear

There is a natural atmosphere as well as a spiritual atmosphere surrounding us. Our words are like "nourishment" to feed and enlarge what we are speaking into. There is

space for faith words as well as for words of fear. Faith activates God's power as we line up our confessions with God's words. Speaking into the fear atmosphere gives Satan entrance into our situation.

What comes out of our mouth will control our future. It is the spiritual principle of sowing and reaping, (Galatians 6:7). It works for a non-Christian as well as a Christian. Each time we sow words of fear we are feeding the fear and it grows stronger. The same is true of faith filled words.

I hasten to say this is not the same as the positive thinking concept so widely taught for many years. The **most positive** thinking and speaking we can do is to speak aloud scripture pertaining to the situation we face. Our heavenly Father loves to hear His words coming back to Him out of the mouth of His children. He delights in knowing His children have studied His word and allowed it to be engrafted into them. We seek out specific scriptures related to our circumstances and offer them back to Him in proclamation.

As we learn to speak His words back to Him we **move from hope into faith** as faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word, (Romans 10:17). We are then feeding the faith atmosphere around us and not the fear atmosphere.

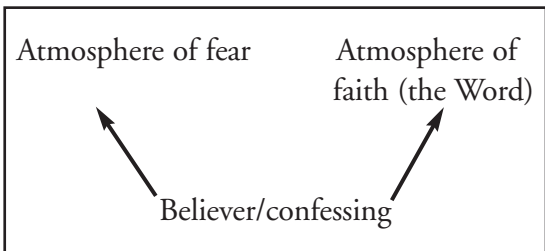
Power of the Indwelling Word

John 15:7 assures us if we stay joined to Him and His Words remain in us and we

remain in Him we can ask any request and it will be granted. Needless to say if we are abiding in Him we will not be asking for inappropriate things which would be clearly outside His will. We will be guided by the indwelling Holy Spirit as well as scripture already engrafted in us or scripture we seek out for the situations we are facing. When we get a firm foundation of specific scriptures, offer them back to the Father in a spirit of praise, worship, and thanksgiving then any darkness and defeat surrounding us will start to recede. We are built up in our inner beings as we hear those words spoken out of our mouths.

We must learn to think according to His word and not according to thinking that does not line up with scripture. We should be trying to bring our experiences up to the level of scripture and not scripture down to our experiences or the experiences of others. The acid test is not what I think, not what others say, but **what does God declare?**

When God hears His word He is obligated to perform it. We are told His word will not return void but will accomplish that for which he sent it, (Isaiah 55:11)



Which will you feed? Which will you agree with? Will you release faith in God or release faith in the enemy?

Words of Salvation

God places great importance on confessing (speaking) to receive salvation, (Romans 10:9,10).

We know the word salvation includes more than just giving us entrance into heaven when we die. According to Isaiah 53:4-6, Jesus provision also carried our weakness, our sorrows, our sins and provided healing as well as made peace available. What an inheritance for those who receive His gift of salvation!!!!

“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,” (Psalm 107:2 NKJV).

Health Words

“The tongue of the wise promotes health,” (Proverbs 12:18 NKJV).

“Pay attention, my child, to what I say. Listen carefully. Don’t lose sight of my words. Let them penetrate deep within your heart, for they bring life and radiant health to anyone who discovers their meaning,” (Proverbs 4:20-22 NLT).

“He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from destruction,” (Psalm 107:20 NKJV).

We know by scripture that the **living** Word is Jesus, (John 1:1). He was the express image of God, (John 14:9). We also have the **written** Word, the Bible, God’s book of instruction for mankind as well as His love letter. Isaiah 53 reveals what Jesus’ sacrifice of His life provided for the believer. Verse 5,6 NLT, *“But He was wounded and crushed for*

our sins, He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed.”

Praise Words

The Bible contains thrilling accounts of victory following praise. The fall of Jericho recorded in Joshua 6 is one example. Praise brings God on the scene. In adverse situations praise is saying, “I trust you God, I know you will bring good out of this, I know your power is greater than that of the evil one, I know no good thing will you withhold from those who walk up rightly, **I know my God causes me to triumph in Christ Jesus**, You have given me power over the enemy, I have the keys to the kingdom, whatever I bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever I loose on earth will be loosed in heaven, what Satan means for evil you will turn to good.”

Many of us have not found praise to come naturally until we have walked with the Lord for a number of years and seen His hand of provision over and over. We can pray for a spirit of praise. Cultivate that spirit by forming a habit of remembering what He has done in previous situations when you cried out to Him. *“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name,”* (Hebrews 13:15 NIV).

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