

OUR WORDS HAVE POWER

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The importance of words in the Kingdom of God

Many times in the Bible there is an emphasis on words and their spiritual power. Essentially, the Christian believer's words are to reflect God's will and His truth, which is His Word (see John 17:17). The heart (or inner man) and the mouth are connected. If there is spiritual rubbish in the heart, then there will be foolishness coming out of the mouth. Christians should be looking to have words in their mouth that are acceptable to God.

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14)

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach” (Romans 10:8)

In the Kingdom of God there is great spiritual power in godly, right, forceful words. Words are much more than a unit of language or a combination of sounds. They are spiritual containers of power.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” (Proverbs 18:21)

Notice that this scripture indicates that death and life are in the power of *our* tongue, meaning that God has left the decision up to us about what words to use. Will we choose to speak life or speak death? What we choose to speak will determine the type of fruit we eat – the fruit of death or the fruit of life. Thus, the righteous of the Kingdom of God should seek to speak words that can be used for the Lord. These words are seeds that can bring forth fruit.

The creative power of words

In the beginning God spoke the heaven and the earth into existence (see Genesis 1:1). God created man in His own image and, as spiritual beings, our words have creative power to set the course of things around us. Ultimately, we have the power to experience a life of blessing or cursing through our choice of words.

The Bible says in James 3:5, “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” The tongue is a small member of the body, yet it has the ability to achieve great things, either good or bad.

“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.” (James 3:8-13)

Here we can see that the tongue can be used as an unruly evil and may be described as deadly poison. As we see in this passage, words can be used to bless and curse but the Lord does not want His people to be double-tongued. We are to choose words that edify and build up and we are to choose our words based in godly wisdom and through the example of Jesus.

Our words are important! Jesus showed this in His teaching about faith.

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.” (Mark 11:22,23)

The foundation of right speaking is to have faith in God, which comes through hearing in a believing way God’s words (see Romans 11:17). An active faith will speak words without doubt. These words spoken against the mountains we face in life will move them because we have what we say. Of course, this works also in the negative and many people have the opposite effect of mountains moving *into* their lives when they continually speak the words of the curse – words of fear and doubt.

Just as faith will cause us to say words that will have a positive effect, so also fear will cause people to say things that will result in a negative effect.

“After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day. ... For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.” (Job 3:1,25)

What words should we be speaking?

Jesus said, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63). The words of God have spiritual impact. They are not natural words but supernatural ones that impact on the heart of man.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

To experience blessing and life, the words that we speak must be in line with the Word of God. In order to do this, we must ensure that this Word is in our hearts. According to Colossians 3:16, Christians should “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom”. These words correspond to what will come out of our mouth.

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” (Luke 6:45)

This Scripture reveals the connection between the heart and the mouth. The words we speak come from the treasure that is in our heart (or inner man). The Bible also says in Psalm 116:10a “I believed, therefore have I spoken”. We must believe the words of God in order for us to be able to speak them in faith.

Jesus said in John 15:7 “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you”.

As we allow the Word of God to abide in us and take root in our heart, we will begin to speak out of our mouth the good treasure of our heart. Jesus also said that as we do this we will be aligning

ourselves with His perfect will. This Scripture clearly shows the power that our words have in our lives.

As we confess the Word of God, we plant faith in our hearts and continue to grow in the Lord. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17)”. By doing this we are building our lives upon the rock and when a storm of life comes, we will naturally speak the Word of God over the situation. We will speak words of faith and life, not words of death and unbelief.

By controlling our words, we can control our whole body. James 3:2 says, “For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body”.

The words that a person speaks reveals their level of spiritual maturity. A spiritual person will watch what they say and choose words of blessing. A carnal person will speak idle or empty words that go against God’s words, and every idle word is thus judged.

“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.” (Matthew 12:36)

It is a choice to either speak idle words that are detrimental or the power-filled words of God, which are words of life, strength and victory.

As we speak the Word of God, things change in line with God’s will

We have the power to change the course of our lives from cursing to blessing by choosing to speak words of life. The Bible warns us that blessing and cursing have been set before us and if we want to live, we must choose life. The words that we choose to speak is an important component of this.

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Furthermore, God warns us that our words are not to be against Him or His purposes in the Earth.

“Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?” (Malchi 3:13).

Note that many people are so ignorant of God’s ways that they do not even recognize that they are speaking out of line. The only way to combat this is to have a renewed mind that thinks along the line of God’s thoughts about things. The world is full of people who do not know God or His ways and rebel against them. This should not be so with Christian believers. We should recognize that God’s ways are full of blessing and we must have words that completely agree with Him. We must know His will about things and reflect that in our words.

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9).

We should not underestimate the power of words. As Christians we should be daily confessing the Word of God over our lives. In this way faith will come, we will close the door on the devil, and we will shape our destiny just the way God intended for us. Our desire should be to please God in all things, including the words that we speak.

God wants us to see good days, even whilst we are on this cursed Earth. Even in the midst of sin, we can walk in blessing and victory. We do not have to be people without direction or blessing.

“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” (1 Peter 3:10).

The good days can come in abundance but there is a clear responsibility for the Christian believer. We must keep our tongue from evil, which includes keeping it from speaking against

the words of God, from backbiting and gossip, from hatred and bitterness, from lying and deception, and from blasphemy and profanity. We should speak no guile, which means not speaking deceptively to gain advantage. In fact, God hates lying and will not bless this type of speaking.

**“Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.”
(Proverbs 12:22).**

Do you want to be a delight to the Lord? Then, agree with Him, speak words of truth, and pray the following.

“Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.” (Psalm 120:2).

Thus, we can be delivered from having lying lips and a deceitful tongue as well as from the results of those who use such devices.

What should our words do?

There are some things we should be affirming or confessing constantly. This means that the positive confession of God’s Word is to be an integral part of our life. As we “walk by faith” (see 2 Corinthians 5:7), we have words and actions that constitute this walk.

“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.” (Titus 3:8).

Our good works are seen by men. When natural people see that we have a way of speaking that is not like theirs, then they find it strange and indeed it may provoke them to inquire of the hope within us. Our words should bring out the love we have for God and His Word. Our words cannot be of the bitter water that does not edify the hearers.

“Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?” (James 3:10,11).

“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.” (Ephesians 4:29).

God desires to use us to minister grace to hearers. Thus, we must stay completely away from corrupt communication. This will mean also that we should not be around people who continually use corrupt communication.

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

We must be clear that our words construct a good witness to the world. The Word of God gives the basis for this. In the next section, we will look at a special type of communication that is the power of God, namely the preaching of the Word of God.

The power of preaching the Word of God

The preaching of the Word of God is a major example of words being vessels of God’s power. Preaching is the power of God manifested through faith, which is believing what is preached.

“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.” (Hebrews 4:2).

Hearers that resist preaching by not wanting to hear it or by refusing to believe it cannot profit from it and this comes directly against God’s will. It is God’s commandment that the Word be preached and He uses men and women who are both called and willing to do this work.

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:2).

The doctrine or spiritual teaching that comes from preaching builds and edifies the believing hearers. It is power to them.

“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:17,18).

Preaching the Word of God causes faith to come to the believing hearer. A heart that is open to the words of God is essential.

“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.” (Proverbs 4:20).

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17).

Christians should seek opportunities to hear the Word of God, especially through preaching, since this is the way that God has made for His Church to be washed, sanctified, and kept from the world and its unbelieving ways (see Ephesians 5:25,26).

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” (John 17:17).

Conformity to the world is completely against God because it undermines everything God wants for mankind (see Romans 12:2). The more that the Word of God enriches the hearts of His people, the more God can accomplish in the world for the Kingdom of God. Thus, believers must see the connection between the Word of God and God’s power in their lives. In this way, we will “be conformed to the image of his Son” (Romans 8:29). It should now be evident that speaking in line with the Word of God must be a priority.

“But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” (Matthew 13:23).

Through the Word of God, believers get an inheritance of victory that has been purchased by the Lord Jesus Christ for the people of God.

“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” (Acts 20:32).

It is through the preaching of the Word that the Kingdom of God and its workings are made known. The Gospel of the Kingdom encompasses entry into the Kingdom of God through being born again and the benefits of the Kingdom of God once people have entered in. Notice that

the ministry of the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom continues to this day as seen in the following.

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.” (Matthew 4:23).

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14)

Christians are truly blessed to both preach and to hear the preaching, which is to continue until the end of the world. This gives Christians opportunities to speak in line with what is preached, so that their heart and mouth agree with God and enforce the victory Christ purchased.

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach” (Romans 10:8).

The confession of victory

The confession of the right words in belief enables Christians to walk in victory, despite the temptations to go with the negative flow of the world. We must be people of faith that resist such temptations.

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4).

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Hence, if Christians face circumstances that try to say to them that there is no hope and there is no victory, then they must align themselves with the Word of God and, through the Spirit, confess the victory that is rightfully theirs. We say boldly, “I have the victory through my Lord Jesus Christ.”

Since the world is ruled over by Satan (see 2 Corinthians 4:4), then it is very important to resist going the way of the world. Our words are forceful vehicles of power as we act in faith.

“How forcible are right words!” (Job 6:25a).

**“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
(James 4:7).**

As we have the right, forcible words in our mouth, then spiritually things are accomplished that will manifest in the natural. God uses His people to enforce the victory that He has won for them, so they are to use “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17b). The devils tremble when believers act in faith since it is in this way that their defeat is enforced. However, notice that there must be submission to God, which means that sin must be dealt with and our tongue must be tamed by God’s sanctification for His work (see James 3:8).

Since the world is so much against the way of faith, then we must have the right thinking about it. We should not hold in great esteem the things of the world because this will inevitably cause us to think and talk about them. Our confession must be that of those who have walked before as examples of faith.

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” (Hebrews 11:13).

The confession that we are “strangers and pilgrims on the earth” keeps our focus, which includes our words, upon the Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ is our High Priest and watches over our profession of faith. We know that He cannot back something that is against the Lord. Keep in mind the following:

“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus” (Hebrews 3:1).

We must consider Christ in our thoughts, words and actions, which means to keep the focus on right things. When we do this, we are then open to God’s power being manifested in our lives. Our profession is what we are doing as strangers and pilgrims, which is separation from the world’s profession.

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4).

We have the victory provided through Christ. As long as our walk of faith is consistent and we follow His example of faith then we can have that manifested. A mighty confession of victory that we can make daily is as follows.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20).

If we are crucified with Christ, then “the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Galatians 6:14b) applies. The value we place on the world will then be very low and our confessions as strangers and pilgrims will match.

Conclusion

There is positive power in our words as we speak in faith and belief. We observe how the negative trend of the world is to have words that are stout against God (see Malachi 3:13). We can conclude that we have a responsibility before God to walk in a way that exhibits faith to the world and is an example to the brethren.

“My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.” (Psalm 45:1).