

The Power of Words



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Language Creates

Key information to recognize how God invariably behaves is realizing that He attaches great value to words and their magnitude in His, as well as our own lives. In fact, both His Son Jesus and the Scriptures are referred to in the Bible as the Word. This name for them is not a coincidence but has great significance. They both are exact representatives of how God the Father thinks and speaks--one a written testimony, the other a human being.

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God (John 1:5) and the Word was God." (John 1:1-4)

"(Jesus Christ is upholding all things by the Word of His power." (Hebrews 1:3)

"It is the Spirit Who gives Life, the flesh profits nothing. The Word that I speak to you is Spirit and it is Life." (John 6:63)

"Heaven and earth shall pass away but My words will by no means pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

"The Word of the Lord endures forever." (I Peter 1:25)

"The Word of God is (both) living and powerful." (Hebrews 4:12a)

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.' (John 14:23)

The Bible never wastes a single statement and is as short as possible. God wants mankind to know as much as we are capable of comprehending about Him in a manageable format. Yet, at the same time the Bible is as long and detailed as necessary. We are discussing condensing the knowledge and wisdom of an unlimited Mind so that

ones with limitations can begin to understand It. The Scriptures include knowledge and wisdom that have to comprise help in every situation for us all. Like the blind men in Chapter 1, we have to work together in order to try to locate and decipher its magnitude.

God clearly recognizes our mental boundaries. Therefore, He has presented us with evidence of His existence and nature in a way that the human mind is capable of investigating. No matter how little we may recognize about the Trinity, whenever we truly desire to know more about Them the Bible can reveal it to us. However, we must be cautious always to let the Holy Spirit tell us when we are ready to appreciate each new step of wisdom, so that we do not think that we are more spiritually mature than He does.

At times the Scriptures seem to be almost annoyingly excessive in duplicating certain phrases. If God is indeed economical with His words, why the redundancies? They must be designed to impart knowledge that is vital for our well being. As an illustration, in *Genesis 1:2-31*, within a mere a 29 verse boundary the following are repeated: "God said (or, saying)...." eleven times, "God called...." five times, and "God blessed...." on two occasions. Likewise, the Bible says six times that only after God had declared, not merely thought, that something should be created, "it was so". In addition, when He saw anything that He had made it always was good, a fact also mentioned on six separate occasions.

If God desired so much to present mankind with a written portrait of Himself that would be as concise as possible, why did the Spirit inspire Moses to compose this portion of the Bible in this repetitive manner? Wouldn't it have been far easier to have directed him to write, "God said this, this, this, this,... and it always happened."? Why would such a powerful Intellect seem so contradictory by apparently not editing efficiently? How can this apparent inconsistency between these verses and what Jesus said about "idle" or non-productive words fit together without these passages being incompatible to the precision of the Scriptures? If all of God's words are valid He cannot be a sloppy author. There has to be a message coded in His language, so what is it?" What does this redundant working mean?

Jesus of Nazareth followed an example of brevity and economy of words throughout His life. Since He was an exact representation of His Father in human form we can look at Him to find the answers. When Jesus commanded a deaf man's ears to "be opened" this was no different from His Father pronouncing "*Light be*," --the direct English translation from the original text) Both situations demonstrated God proclaiming what He wanted to happen, and it did. The Bible states emphatically that *all* words, whether said by the Father or His Son, coupled with absolute faith were the creative power that They used to achieve everything good that ever has existed.

"God--Who gives Life to the Dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did." (Romans 4:17b)

Since God employs spoken words to create and the Bible tells us to imitate Him, we also are supposed to use our words carefully. As mentioned previously, Jesus Himself used them to get Satan to leave His presence as well as to heal. If we truly desire to follow His lead we must do the same and guard our communication, too.

"Since we have the same Spirit of faith according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak." (II Corinthians 4:13)

It is essential for us to remember that while being tested privately by the devil in the wilderness, Jesus--the Living Word--only used the written Word to keep Himself from pursuing Satan's temptations of badly needed nourishment, as well as the earthly fame, power, and wealth that were dangled before Him if He, like the Adams, would disobey God. In fact, in order to be transferred from under Satan's rule to God's Kingdom, we all not only must believe, but also communicate what we have accepted. This demonstrates further

evidence of the value and impact that God places on words.

"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead you will be saved, for with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10)

What is the answer to the question why God had Moses record so many times that when He spoke His desires that they happened? He wants us to focus on the redundancy. God was not being inept or careless. Rather, He was making a point: whatever God says, God creates. Therefore, in order for us to imitate both Him and Jesus we have to realize that whatever we say we also are creating. Being imperfect it will take us longer than it does God and Jesus to see results, without a miracle. However, that is when we need to put our faith to work and persevere more every day. The determinant factor is the amount of faith in our words, whether positive or negative. We can plant words, or "seeds", that agree with God's will or we can choose to ignore, forget, or not believe in this phenomenon and say (deliberately or carelessly) whatever we care to at any moment. God gave mankind the freedom to choose Life or Death. All of everyone's constant daily choices are still that simple, and tied to our communication.

"The Gospel was preached to us as well as to them but the Word did not profit them not mixed with faith in those who heard it." (Hebrews 4:2)

We can keep verbalizing our thoughts about unfavorable circumstances in an undisciplined manner. If we do though, eventually, we will build strongholds that will direct our existence away from God's ways, and eventually His protection. Even when our choices and actions cause Him grief and incite reactions that do us harm He will never impede our decisions. Remember that God swore an oath not to interfere in our lives whenever we do not want His help. When we do call on Him though, He will respond immediately. Although He will help us He will not do it by nullifying the past. Consequently, He will have to deal with everything that we ever have done previously: to ourselves, our environments, as well as to others. This may take some time but He is patient.

The Book of James

The issue of words mainly is expounded upon in the book that Jesus' half-brother wrote. James of Nazareth was not one of the twelve disciples who traveled with Jesus throughout the three years of His public ministry. However, he Jesus way before He was "famous". When Jesus initially began His mission, His preaching embarrassed His younger brother James. James repented of his disbelief in Jesus being the Messiah and authored a manuscript that is quite intimate. It was a letter whose contents no one else really dealt with much, not even the apostle Paul who composed about two-thirds of the New Testament.

While Jesus was young and still living with His earthly family James must have considered his Brother to be an ordinary man. However, sometime after Jesus' death and resurrection James realized just Who had worked, played, and talked with him for his entire life (since Jesus was the oldest of the siblings). Jesus had to have been completely honest, self-controlled, and discreet at all times and James remembered this.

One of the most important things about Jesus of Nazareth that specifically are pointed out in the Bible for us is how He always guarded His speech. He never said one thing that was not absolutely true, nor did He ramble on and on just to hear Himself talk. Even though spies were sent from those who opposed His ministry to catch Him at His words, they never were successful. In fact, in order to get anyone to testify against Him at His mock trial in front of the Jewish religious leaders the supposedly impartial witnesses had to lie.

"Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example that you should follow His steps, Who has committed no sin nor was deceit found in His mouth." (I Peter 2:21-22)

In his letter to the churches, James clearly wanted to share what he had observed in Jesus' private life for so many years. Even in their home, Jesus constantly must have conducted Himself prudently and carefully for 30+ years.

"If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless." (James 1:26)

"No man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and with it we curse men who have been made in the likeness of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, this not ought to be so." (James 3:8-10)

Ultimately We Will Divulge What We Truly Believe

Why is guarding our speech so important? It is God's creative power, what He uses to bring into being everything that He desires. Since He made us in His image, Jesus taught that we likewise have this creative force residing within us. Therefore, as mentioned above, whatever we practice speaking will eventually happen to some degree.

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.... But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak they will give account for it in the Day of Judgment for by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:34, 36-37)

"We all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships. Although they are so large and are driven fierce winds they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so, the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles and the tongue is a fire--a world of evil. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire by hell." (James 3:2-6)

God holds us accountable for everything that our words, as well as actions have caused. No matter what we may feel, we must believe and say what the Bible instructs, not anyone or anything contradictory. We should study and learn God's Word, and use that knowledge to resist Satan's influences in our lives with increasing frequency. No one but we are responsible for the venom that too often pours out of our mouths. Without God's help we cannot stop this behavior. We are not perfect and have strong tendencies to react either for or against what our human senses pick up, instead of only doing and repeating what God would.

"Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man but what comes out of the mouth. This defiles a man.... Those things which come out of the mouth come from the heart and they defile a man." (Matthew 15:11, 18)

When we confess and sincerely ask God to pardon any negative outburst He does so without delay. Then, we must continue to fill ourselves with more of His Word by

hearing, studying, and practicing it so that the next time a similar situation arises we will be better equipped to deflect it. Not only do we have to "uproot" all seeds of disobedience, we must "re-plant" using seeds of faith in order to progress. Repetition is the key to learning and building new habits.

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17)

In addition, the following verse is so valuable to our lives that never should we forget to use this to help us, for this is the only offensive weapon that God ever used or uses against Satan--the sword of the Spirit. As mentioned previously, even Jesus Himself used only God's Word to make the devil go away from Him while He was facing temptation.

"The sword of the Spirit--which is the Word of God." (Ephesians 6:17b)

"He has made my mouth like a sharp sword." (Isaiah 49:2)

It is our individual responsibility continually and conscientiously to pay attention to and practice the Word of God. It is what kept Jesus from adversity. It is an authority that we likewise can count on, forever. But, we have to communicate it, not just believe that it will work. If it is left on a wall, even the strongest sword never will be effective against an intruder. It will not be able to save anyone or anything at all from even a minor conflict.

"The Word is near you in your mouth and in your heart." (Romans 10:8a)

Is There Such a Thing as a "White" Lie?

According to the Bible the answer to this question is an unequivocal 'no'. Everything that God ever has stated, or ever will say, is pure truth, and nothing but. Anything else is a fabrication--which by definition is a lie. Therefore, the popular terms "virtual" or "faux" which signify something very close to an original, yet are a counterfeit are deliberately designed to deceive. Whether they seem to be positive or negative does not matter. These things do not come from God and are never part of Him or His Kingdom.

For example, "virtual reality" means a clever falsehood, a distortion of actuality except in mere surface appearance. Nowadays some computers can generate a false presence with which people can interact as if it were indeed real. However, their responses to this image do not cause the false thing to change. It is phony and their relationship with each other is an artificial one. The closer that said representation is to being bona fide the more dangerous it is. Money from a game never would be accepted as legal tender in order to purchase any product or service. However, a good counterfeit bill might pass as being authentic for awhile. When it is recognized though, the people who accepted the cash in fact have lost two things: that money and the article or service rendered. They have been doubly duped.

A clever fraud can be detected only by study and training from the genuine object. That is why the best way to search for God is by meditating on His Scriptures. Even books like this one never should be taken as an alternative to the Bible. These are study guides at best, never valid substitutes for God's Own Word. They never can have a true claim to possess the same consummate accuracy. The Bible instructs us to be truthful at every moment, yet not divisive either. We are to communicate with God and among each other precisely in the same manner that Jesus did. We are to search for harmony and righteousness, and to do so is possible only by getting to know, and copy, the life of Jesus of Nazareth. We should strive to imitate His words as well as His actions. This means being absolutely caring, tactful, and not lying, ever.

Monitoring Our Speech

"He who has knowledge spares his words and a man of understanding is of a calm Spirit. Even a fool when he holds his peace is counted wise. When he that shuts his lips he is considered perceptive." (Proverbs 17:27-28)

Whenever we want to contribute to a conversation we usually do so, but how many times are we aware of the words we actually use? Too often we simply do not desire to be as disciplined in either our language or actions as the Bible teaches is unconditionally necessary. It is far easier to just say whatever reactive remark pops into our heads. Yet, we always should be mindful of the consequences that can arise from what Jesus termed "idle" words.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer." (Psalm 19:14)

Whatever we *practice* doing and saying is what will become second nature to us. And, what we listen to will increase in our minds and spirits until it starts to affect our bodies as well. If we hear only gossip, eventually we will repeat only gossip. If we hear the Word of God we will repeat that. Additionally, when we rehearse it we will get to listen to it again. The more we hear about God and Jesus the more our faith about Them will develop, like strong muscles. That faith is the material that will cause our attitudes, actions, speech, and eventually our physical bodies to change.

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.... By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." (Hebrews 11:1, 3)

"Then (Jesus) said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use it will be measured back to you." (Mark 4:24)

The impact that words have upon our lives is in effect presently just as it was when Jesus taught, as well as when God used them to create the entire universe. Human beings still use language to communicate. Whatever we truly believe eventually will pour out of us somehow--whether written, orally, or signed. If we do not let the Lord direct our words we will communicate a mixture of meaningful/ill-considered statements and truth/lies throughout our lives. It will produce little or no beneficial results, depending on what and how much we say about an issue. We invariably will contradict ourselves if we continue in this manner, thus making ourselves like a "kingdom divided against itself", which cannot stand.

Jesus taught that *all* words contribute to the conditions that affect us. If we want to please God and stay within His authority, parameters, and protection we have to imitate what *He* would do. If we choose not to do this we are "on our own", outside of His jurisdiction for the length of time that we decide to remain in a physical sense controlled frame of mind and body. Only we determine what we will communicate. And, our words can work for or against our hopes. In like manner, we have to realize that we constantly have to resist accepting any outside references to ourselves as being something other than what the Bible teaches are God's desires, no matter what we think or feel at a given moment. Nor, should we repeat any statements that contradict His will for us. If we slip, we must repent as soon as possible and turn our thoughts and voice around to be in line with His Word.

"The wicked is ensnared by the contradiction of his lips." (Proverbs 12:13a)

As an example, some times we have built up patterns of repeatedly stating something like, "I'm going to get a cold this winter; I always do." More than likely it will come to pass at some point during that time frame. This does not mean that we ever wanted to get sick, but we have chosen to accept the inevitability because of what has been a pattern the past. Instead of acquiescing to any disease or handicap though, we should pray and let God help us resist bad things that try to take root in our bodies. We must do this consistently, just as we take all other vitamins and medicines either to prevent illness or aid us if we ever do become disabled.

"Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7). (Matthew 4:10)

We get different sources of information that too often conflict with each other: human ideas (which change) versus the Bible (which does not). From God's standpoint we already are healed from everything that causes unsoundness. Jesus obliterated that power of Satan's over the world with His sacrifice to suffer in our place on the cross. As a result, no one ever has to endure any ailments again. However, to be able to enjoy this benefit of our heritage we have to learn how to respond effectively to the knowledge and wisdom either to prevent, get rid of, or confront illness or defects God's way.

Doctors and everything around us, including our own bodies and minds may state that we are sick and will remain so. However, we cannot be afflicted and whole simultaneously, and disease of any kind never was a part of God's original design for us. If it were, then Jesus would have experienced mental and physical illness and handicaps continually instead of instantly alleviating suffering. If God reveals Himself and His Kingdom through disease, not the Holy Spirit, His Son would have been ill constantly. And, if God wanted us to be sick, then Jesus healing people, and even dying to prevent disease and decay, would divide God's Kingdom and it could not stand.

"So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth. It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please and it shall prosper in the things for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

We must decide who has the most complete information concerning a situation and follow that. If we choose to accept what the Bible says about us, we also have to begin to agree with what it says are God's desires for our lives and continue to have faith in Him, disregarding all evidence in opposition. No matter what we ever see or feel, in order to manifest permanent visible changes in any condition this is precisely how we need to learn how to communicate and conduct ourselves, forever.

We can look at, touch our bodies, see deformities, and accept them as our fate. God gave mankind the freewill to surrender to whatever attacks us. The Bible says that it is our choice either to choose life/Life or death/Death. Since Jesus' resurrection we, too, are joint heirs to every privilege that He recouped, everything that the Adams had in the beginning. The question is, how much do we want to be complete? Enough to follow God's rules instead of our own or someone else's? If we die without ever perceiving any changes, our individual experiences do not, and will not, ever alter God's Word. Jesus still said what He said, and the Word never changes.

This is not to deny any physical reality now in effect; but instead to admit that it is temporary--subject to change--and focus on a future that includes the *ability* to be healthy, instead of meditating on being sick. Simultaneously, we also must keep in mind that the Bible likewise teaches that strife among family members, friends, acquaintances or total strangers is something that the Word commands us to avoid. Therefore, we must pray not only for God's wisdom and strength throughout the period when we do not perceive any changes, but also at the same time respect and show His love to others who do not acknowledge this message in the same fashion. We have to live allowing His light shine

through us.

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lamp stand and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in Heaven." (Matthew 6:14-16)

"Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus." (John 12:9-11)

It is not our job to debate with or irritate anyone to try to change his or her behavior. God can and will prove Himself. He can modify their hearts, whereas nagging and arguing about whom is right about what God thinks about an issue will not. When we follow God's Word others will notice the changes and faith in us. It will be up to them also to learn to follow His guidance and directions for themselves. We are to share the Gospel, never use it to coerce or condemn. Jesus didn't.