

The Power of Words

Introduction:

In this study we are going to explore the power of words. Not only does the word of God have power, but our words have power as well. Words have the power of death and life. Every word that is spoken has an influence for good or for evil. This is true of God's words as well as our words.

Christ is the Word:

Christ is the Father's thoughts made audible.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

Revelation 19:13 And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God.

God's word has power:

Ecclesiastes 8:4 Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?

How much more power in the words of the King of the universe?

Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at His doctrine: for His word was with power.

Luke 4:36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

God's word has power to create:

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Psalms 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

God's word has power to re-create:

God honors His word when we return it to Him. It reveals our faith in His promise to fulfill the word.

Isaiah 11:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

God's word has power to uphold all things:

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

God's word is a twoedged sword discerning the character:

Hebrews 4:12 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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

We are judged by our words:

Psalms 139:4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37) For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Matthew 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

Our words reveal our heart condition:

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

God's words have power for life:

John 6:63 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 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

The reception of God's word saves:

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Psalms 17:4 Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22) But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he

was. 25) But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

We become what we behold, and if we behold our weaknesses and failures, we shall not be a doer of the word. If we fix our eyes on Christ and His righteousness, we will be doers of the word.

2Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

By God's word we obtain victory:

Romans 10:8 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;

Paul is quoting Deuteronomy which adds, "that thou mayest do it." It is by faith in the word which is nigh that we may resist the temptations to sin.

Deuteronomy 30:14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Satan flees when the word is quoted.

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2) And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungred. 3) And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4) But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5) Then the devil taketh Him up into the holy city, and setteth Him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6) And saith unto Him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7) Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8) Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9) And saith unto Him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10) Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve. 11) Then the devil leaveth Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.

The way of escaping temptation is to quote the word.

1Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:

1John 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known Him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

God's word brings peace and assurance:

Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Psalms 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope.

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Rejection of God's word destroys:

Luke 9:26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.

Mark 4:17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

God's Word is a fire that devours:

Jeremiah 5:13 And the prophets shall become wind, and the word is not in them: thus shall it be done unto them. 14) Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.

Jeremiah 23:29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Ezekiel 3:17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

Jeremiah 6:10 To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

God's word is pure:

Psalms 119:140 Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him.

Psalms 12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

God's word is truth:

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Acts 20:32 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.

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

God's word is eternal:

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Isaiah 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Psalms 119:142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.

Psalms 119:151 Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.

Psalms 119:152 Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

God's word enlightens:

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

God's word cleanses:

Psalms 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Psalms 119:133 Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Ephesians 5:26 That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

God's words are our spiritual food:

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

God's word should direct our paths:

Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

We must have faith in God's Word:

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

In other words, God created the worlds from scratch, from nothing, and not from things that already existed. If God was able to create everything from scratch, we can believe that He will answer the prayer of faith if we, 1) ask for anything according to His will and purpose, and 2) believe that He is able to answer our prayer.

Mark 11:23 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. 24) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Abraham is a good example of having faith in the promises of God. Abraham's faith finally grew to realize that what God promised, He was able also to perform. What was impossible with Abraham and Sarah, was possible with God.

Romans 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: 20) He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21) And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. 22) And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

Mark 10:26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? 27) And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

If our request has anything to do with the gospel, our prayer will be answered according to our faith. Therefore, we can do all things through Christ if it is according to His will and purpose.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

1John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us:

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

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.

Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Mark 11:23 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.

Hebrews 4:2 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.

Luke 7:7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

Faith comes by hearing God's word:

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

Luke 11:28 But He [Christ] said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

We must trust God's word:

Psalms 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6) In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. 7) Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Psalms 56:4 In God I will praise His word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

Life and death are in the power of our tongue:

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

James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 6) And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

James 3:7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: 8) But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9) Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10) Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11) Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? 12) Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Psalms 141:3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

Our words can destroy:

Proverbs 18:8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Psalms 64:3 Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:

Our words can heal:

Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Wisdom is slow to speak:

Proverbs 29:20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in Heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. 3) For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

Proverbs 17:27 He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Our words can subvert anger:

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

We must study God's Word:

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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

How to establish God's word:

We are to establish the word of truth by comparing Scripture with Scripture.

2Corinthians 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

We must memorize God's word:

Job 22:21 Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. 22) Receive, I pray thee, the law from His mouth, and lay up His words in thine heart.

Proverbs 4:4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

Proverbs 7:1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

We must share God's word:

Ezekiel 2:7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.

Isaiah 50:4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

We are persecuted for God's word:

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.... 12) Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.