

“The Power of Our Words”

April 28, 2013

PROP- Fresh conviction RE; the power of our words. SEE Isaiah 55:10-11

- Words direct the course of our life (James 3:4- *“steering a ship”*)
- King David knew the power of his words:
 - “I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress” (Psalm 17:3) [“I won’t let my words run loose!” The Message]
 - “Let the words of my mouth...be acceptable” (Psalm 19:14)
 - “Set a guard at my mouth, O Lord” (Psalm 141:3)
- We can “sustain a weary one with a word” (Isaiah 50:4)
- Or...we can destroy someone’s reputation with a “spark” of gossip (James 3:5-6)
- We can BLESS or CURSE (James 3:10) (Prov. 18:21- “life & death”)
 - **CURSE**-
 - *“To put down”*- speak negatively of [Negative talk is “set on fire by hell” James 3:16] Wrote to believers, not satanists]
 - *“To doom”*- make a pronouncement (“Never, can’t, won’t”) (i.e., *“This will never change”*)
 - Example: Titus 1:10-14- “Those who say senseless, empty things” like: “All Cretans are always liars, brutes & lazy gluttons.” “Rebuke them sharply—they return to faith”
 - **BLESS**-
 - *“To speak well of”*
 - *“To declare that they will prosper”*
 - Example: 2 Timothy 1:3-7

1. **BLESSING ONE ANOTHER IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL THINGS WE CAN DO WITH OUR WORDS.** (*Jewish children; 2.7% of population; yet, more people in influence; Pulitzer/Nobel; less in prison*) Daily blessed.
2. **BLESSING IS PART OF OUR CALLING, PURPOSE & DESTINY:** “Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.” (1 Peter 3:9)
3. **BLESSING INCLUDES:** How we PRAY FOR, SPEAK TO & TALK ABOUT someone else. (NOTE: The word for “bless” is *eulogy*. It means “good words”. Why save our best words & best flowers for someone *after* they die? Mary anointed Jesus’ feet w/ perfume & was ridiculed; she later brought perfume to His grave & no one said a thing. Jesus said, “Her example will be told everywhere the Gospel is preached.” New trend—**bless now!**)
4. **BLESSING HAS 2 DYNAMICS:**

- a. PERSPECTIVE to the PRESENT (who you really are)
 - b. PROPHETIC DECLARATION to the FUTURE (hope, vision)
5. OUR WORDS FLOW FROM OUR HEARTS “Out of the overflow of our hearts, our mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45)
 6. OUR TONGUES ARE TAMED IN HIS PRESENCE (James 3:8)
 7. OUR WORDS REFRESH (“Cool off; recover from the effects of severe heat; revive”)

SEE SONG OF SONGS 2:11- Refreshing comes as we...

“COME AWAY!” with Him.

Acts 3:19- “times of refreshing come from the Lord”

“GIVE AWAY” what we receive from Him. (*Inverted or Investing?*)

- “I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you. For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.” (1 Cor. 16:18)
 - “We were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you.” (2 Cor. 7:13)
 - “May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.” (2 Tim. 1:16)
 - NOTE: Refreshing is reciprocal. “He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” (Proverbs 11:25)
8. THE CAPACITY TO BLESS OTHERS—FLOWS FROM “LIVING A BLESSED LIFE”

Henri Nouwen- *“The blessed cannot help but bless others.”*

- “He daily loads us with blessings” (Psalm 68:19)
- “Has blessed us with every spiritual blessing...” (Ephesians 1:3)
- “...makes His face shine upon us...” (Numbers 6:25)

RESPONSE

Jeremiah 33:3- “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

- Let’s position ourselves from the abundance of heaven, not the lack on earth.
- (I don’t just want the deed—I want to live there!)