

Remnant Life Church
September 5, 2021
“Spiritual Warfare – The Tongue: Words of Blessing”
Pt 5
Luke 5:1-11

How is it that words have such power?

It is because of who spoke the very first words:

- 1) **Gen 1:3** - *And God said, “Let there be light” and there was light.*
- 2) God used the spoken word to bring creation into being

Speaking words of blessing is not:

- Name it and claim it
- The power of positive thinking – Norman Vincent Peale
- Certainly not L. Ron Hubbard’s Dianetics

Again, guard what authors you read and the thinking you allow to come into your mind and heart

The important words of the Apostle Paul to the church in Philippi –

- **Phil 4:8** - *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*
- Why is this verse important?
 - Because we have already determined that words are an outpouring of our hearts and then formulated in our minds
 - Paul provides a list of what things should be occupying our minds in order to produce words of kindness and blessing

Two things last week of the importance of speaking those words of blessing from a heart that is dwelling or thinking on the goodness of God

- 1. Your words have the power to bring a blessing into the life of another person**
 - a. We see God at the very beginning of creation
 - b. **Gen 1:28** – *And God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*
- 2. Not only do your words bring blessing, but they can also bring life**
 - a. **Proverbs 10:11** – *The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.*
- 3. Words bring blessing to others, they bring life, and they help others rise to another level**
 - a. Now what does that mean?
 - b. Your words of blessing, of kindness, of hope, and of joy can be the catalyst to another person’s breakthrough

- i. It may be a struggle that has been present
- ii. It may be an emotional issue
- iii. It may be a relational conflict that has been hanging over them
- iv. Or it may be a physical answer that they have been waiting on
- c. Peter is a perfect example of this
 - i. On two separate occasions, Jesus spoke words of blessing over Peter that transformed his life
 - ii. One of those is found in **Luke 5:1-11 (Tom READ)**
 - iii. Peter obeyed God and took him out on his boat
 - iv. Jesus then blessed Peter physically with a huge much needed catch of fish
 - v. But He then blessed Peter with words that transformed Peter's life – he would become fishers of men
 - vi. Peter would go on to become the leader of the 12; he would cast out demons; lead countless numbers of people to believe in Jesus; and play a primary role in establishing the early church
- d. But words of blessing will not only be effective in that way with others, it is also true of the words you speak over yourself
 - i. You will never see the full power of God's impact in your life as long as you speak words of negativity over yourself or your situation
 - ii. Doing that gives the negative things you are dealing with life
 - iii. You are feeding into the plan of satan to defeat you
- e. Instead, recognize how powerful the positive words are to your life and the circumstances in which you live

Scott Adams, the creator of the "Dilbert" comic strip, tells this story from the early days of his career: He said, "When I was trying to become a syndicated cartoonist, I sent my portfolio to one cartoon editor after another and received one rejection slip after another. One cartoon editor called me and suggested I take art classes. Then Sarah Gillespie, an editor at United Media and considered one of the genuine experts in the field, called to offer me a contract. At first I didn't believe her. I asked if I would have to change my style or get a partner or learn how to draw... and she said she believed I was already good enough to be a nationally syndicated cartoonist. Her confidence in me completely changed my frame of reference and how I thought about even my own abilities." He said, "This may sound bizarre, but the minute I got off the phone with her, I could draw better and there was a marked improvement in my work."

- i. That is why words in the spiritual realm are words of spiritual warfare
- ii. Both the negative and positive

The words you speak over others and yourself have incredible power in the spiritual realm that will be manifest and seen in the physical world

- When Jacob was at the end of his life (**Gen 48**) he went to see Joseph and his family so he could pronounce a blessing over the two boys for their futures
- Words not only impact our hearts and minds in the present, but they also impact the course of our lives for the future

- Following Paul's conversion and his willingness to accept the call of God on his life to preach instead of persecute, it was a man by the name of Barnabas who spoke words of blessing over Paul while others backed away from him in fear

READ – Acts 9:19b-30

- Barnabas was a godly man who supported the work of the disciples
 - His name was Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus (an island off the coast of Greece in the Mediterranean, but he was called Barnabas
 - That name means “son of encouragement” (Acts 4:36)
 - Do you think Barnabas spoke words of cursing or words of blessing?
 - What would your words cause others to call you?
 - Barnabas saw in Paul the future of what God was doing in spite of his past
 - And it was Barnabas who took Paul as his ministry partner when no one else would
 - I wonder how willing we are to do that for others
 - i.e. – look beyond their past and consider their potential for the future
- Be very aware of this for your children and grandchildren
 - Generational curses, those things that are passed from family to family, can be broken by words of power spoken by a father or mother
 - Men this is something that we must rise up to do as the head of our homes
 - Speak words of encouragement; be joyful; build others up – never tear them down

The spiritual warfare battles we are all faced with each day, are often won or lost by the words we say

- It begins in the heart
- What is the condition of your heart this morning?
- What do you need to do in order to be the one who speaks words of life?

Jesus said in **Matthew 12:35-37** - *A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.*”

What does this mean?

- You will be judged by the words you say
- If you have any sense – that should at best alarm you and at worse scare you to death
- It is never too late to stop speaking curses over others and yourself and begin speaking words of blessing

James 3:9-10 - *With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.*