

## The Power of the Spoken Word

*Scripture reading: John 16:20-27*

### Ask, and Ye Shall Receive...

The first lesson I received in the power of the spoken word occurred one day when Jesus Christ came into my room during those memorable seven months in which He taught me the Bible personally. We had the usual appointment for four o'clock in the afternoon and I was in a little early, waiting upon Him. Suddenly He was there and His mood and attitude was upbeat. This means that I was lifted up in heavenly places the moment he appeared. He said, "Ask me for anything you desire and you shall have it."

Immediately, my mind was thrown into a whirl and I could not think of anything to ask for. At first, I thought that, "Here is God; I need to ask Him for something I think He would want me to ask for." At the same time I found myself thinking that maybe the Scripture had some translation error, which said you should ask for anything you desire. He said, "No, you ask for something that you desire, not what you think God wants you to desire." I said, "Lord, give me a healing; let me see someone healed."

I got His word and ran out of the room seeking for a sick person. I found a woman who was given up by the doctors to die shortly. I prayed a little prayer and spoke the word of healing to her, whereupon she got up and was totally healed. The one thing I will never forget is when she saw me inquiring from her husband if she was really sick. She laughed at me and said, "You don't believe, do you?" It seemed to be too easy to be real.

What does it mean to ask in the name of Jesus? Unfortunately, the carnal person believes that it is by saying the words, "In the name of Jesus," that it makes it so, but this is far from the truth. All through the Bible, we notice that the word *name* depicts *nature*. In Matthew 1:21 the angel said to Joseph:

*"Thou shalt call his name Jesus (Iesous in the Greek, from Yeshua, in the Hebrew, meaning Savior); for he shall save his people from their sins."*

A name always had a meaning. In Africa and India they would never think of naming a child by the name of a devil unless that child was specifically given to that devil. Names carry meanings and the nature of that meaning generally comes forth in the child. In the developed world, we find that some children are called names like *Damian* which, of course, means *demon*. If I were given such a name, then as soon as I become conscious of it, I would change it.

Jacob was a supplanter because that was the meaning of his name. He cheated his brother out of his birthright and robbed him of his blessing, but when he met God at Penuel, God wrestled with him all night and literally knocked the devil out of him. That night his name was changed to Israel, *Prince of God*, because his nature was changed.

When, therefore, we are told to ask in the name of Jesus, we are being told that we must ask as Christ Himself asks—we must ask in His nature. The angels of God that attend to us and do for us the works of God that we cannot do, can only obey the voice of God. When they hear us speak in the voice of Christ, they immediately obey, whether it be to the moving of mountains or of straws.

Whenever the believer is in the Spirit, he or she speaks with the voice of God. We know it is the voice of God ("It is God") when:

- (1) Our spirits bear witness with the spirit that speaks; and,
- (2) It agrees with the written Word and the Spirit of God (which is in the Word).

In John 14:16, our Lord told us that He would ask the Father and that He would send us another Comforter. In John 16:25-26 we are being told by our Lord that there is a day, a set time, when He will not pray to the Father for us: *25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall show you plainly of the Father. 26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you.*

In the next verse, He gave the reason: *27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.*

This is indeed a profound statement. Jesus Christ is actually saying that we will have the power to ask and receive as He did; that we will have an open line with the Father.

The hope and life of the church is all centered upon this one point of time, this *day of the Lord*. In this day, the spoken word will come to its full power. God has created both life and death in the power of the tongue.

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*Thought for today:* God longs to answer the prayers of His people. Ask in the nature of His Son and the whole heaven will move to fulfill your request.