

## Life and Death - the Power of the Tongue

*Scripture reading: Matthew 12:22-37*

Words can carry both life and death. This is so because we are not just dealing with natural things. A person who can get angry and wish another dead will have many evil spirits taking his word and going forth to accomplish that which was spoken. We live in a spiritual realm and no word falls to the ground. The spirits of God will obey every word of Christ that comes out of your mouth or your thoughts, but the spirits of the devil will also obey every evil thought and every evil word. As matured Christians we have learned not to speak any negative words or harbor any negative thoughts. Negative thoughts will come and we will see a thing to be totally negative, but we are the balancing force in the world and we are expected to reprove the darkness wherever we see it.

If you can see a negative thing about a person and not have the love and compassion to earnestly pray for that person, then it is the devil that showed you and not God. God will never show anyone anything about anybody unless he knows your love for that person. If He shows you, it means that you are being recruited to pray for that person.

The battle in the realms of the spirit goes back and forth upon these principles. If a man is guilty, then devils claim him, but another can drive that devil from him by the power that God gives us. Therefore, if we deride the guilty, we encourage the devils that have a claim on him to exercise their claim. Many times we see one continuously oppressed of devils and we might feel in our hearts, "It serves him right." We have unwittingly joined the forces of the devil which are oppressing him and have failed God in the rescue effort which he needs.

We have a word that is like a flashing sword of light when it strikes evil spirits. This means that Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is Himself the *Logos*, has given us the *rhema* (or, *the word of command*) to use as one uses a gun or a sword.

Once I was attacked by what seemed to be a prince of darkness. His power was so great that when he held me, I could not physically move my hands, head, or tongue. At that moment, Jesus appeared to me and gave me instructions. I obeyed and my tongue was released to speak the word of rebuke. When I did so, the thing was thrown from me by the power of God. The *rhema*, therefore, was the command I spoke, but without Christ, the *Logos*, my words would be ineffective. Jesus Christ said, *...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life* (John 6:63). This simply means that when Jesus speaks, spirits go forth from Him to do His bidding and from what we have learned, we are being brought into that same realm where we speak with the voice and authority of God.

The power of the spoken word should, however, be understood by the believer. When we abide in the Spirit, a certain authority goes along with the words we speak. We have seen it in action and the only way we can describe it is that it comes like a ray of light flashing from the believer to the enemy. In the case of the creative force, it is like a spirit that goes forth and creates the object spoken into being. This same force from God works in the preaching of the Word. If the person who delivers the Word is speaking with the authority of the Spirit, then the hearers must be blessed and lifted up towards Christ. All of God's activity in the Church moves the believer towards becoming more and more like Christ; the spoken word is a creative force which not only attracts the spirits of heaven to us, but buoys us up into the heavenlies. The spoken word drives away the spiritual forces of the enemy and not even evil men can stand being around anyone who speaks the Word of God. Yes, we do overcome the enemy by the word of our mouth and the Blood of the Lamb.

There is, however, what I would call, a backup, provided of God in the person of the angels that are constantly guarding us:

*"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"*  
(Hebrews 1:14)

Angels of God are appointed around every believer to minister for him. We are partners with God, but can only do a certain part of the work (that which pertains to the physical). The angels, however, are appointed of God to do the spiritual. Therefore, when we speak that which pleases God, His spirits act on our behalf. The place of function between man and God as one unit is described in the Word as the *lampstand* in the Tabernacle of Moses. It is depicted as one of the seven churches as well as one of the

seven works of grace that will bring us into perfection (the Man Child Church). In Solomon's Temple the lampstand was multiplied to ten and was made much larger than the one in Moses' tabernacle. This shows that there would be a mighty increase in the ministry of God and man working together as well as that the magnitude of light in the Holy Place would be increased ten-fold.

The power of God in the Church has increased immensely, but because of the overspreading of iniquity and abominations, it is not very apparent to us. Nevertheless, we should understand that without this great power it would be impossible for us to even survive the present onslaught of Satan and his hosts.

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*Thought for today:* The spiritual world is waiting to hear our words and thoughts so that they can carry out their purposes – whether good or bad.