

The Power of A Word

by Pastor Tony McQueer Jan 6 2007

Have you ever considered how powerful words are?

Words form our life. They literally **make us who we are...**

Words form our life more than our **environment** does.

Everyone is at the same place as far as our physical condition is concerned.

I realize some have more food, water, shelter than other... But all of that affects our physical well being.

But it is words that **form the inner part of us.**

What you see today is the inner reflection of the words that were put into our lives from the time we were born.

The **lack of encouraging words** has hurt the majority of people today.

Compile that with an **inner nature that has been corrupted** by sin and we are a real mess.

We get to a place that we totally reject correction when it is brought into our life

When something **challenges us to grow** on the inside we:

> Become more and more insecure

> we feel hopeless

> We want to run

> We feel angry

> We start to criticize and become very judgmental. We become critical and judgmental of others in order to take the attention off from us. We point the finger at others in order to feel better about ourselves. There are so many times that I have experienced or seen people wrongly judge, or accuse, or talked bad about. It wasn't until I realized that they were the ones really hurting inside that I started to have compassion for them and started to pray for them.

Words can be misunderstood.

Did you hear about the kid napping in Tampa.... Well he woke up at 4:00PM

A lawyer once said "The youngest son, the twenty year old...How old is he?"

"Were you alone or by yourself?"

"So you were gone until you returned?"

Words can be misused

Actually church bulletin bloopers

The Power of A Word

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“For those of you that have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery downstairs”

“Low self-esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30PM. Please use the back door”

Words can be confusing:

Jeremy? Jeremy? Talking to my daughter I was about to go crazy. I asked her a question and she kept asking me about Jeremy? Finally I said “Who is Jeremy!”

She said “no Did you hear me!”

The biggest example I know of that helps us to understand that it is the words that come into our life that creates the inner us is this:

Our language: I speak English because I heard English, I was taught English, English has become a part of me....I don’t speak Spanish, German or what ever.... I speak and act out the words that were put into my life.

What kind of words do you speak? Do they encourage or discourage?

The Bible tells me that the words I speak either give life or death to those that hear. We are responsible for every word we speak. We had better listen very carefully to what we are saying. How do you speak to your spouse, your children, about people at church or about yourself...?

Jesus said: “...*For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. 36. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*” Matthew 12:34-37 (NKJV)

We need to really try to understand the power of our words. In proverbs we learn that the way we speak directly affects our own life. Sometimes we think we can speak discouraging things toward others or about others and it is no big deal. Bottom line is...If we have things within us that makes us speak badly toward others then the bad we speak of is already in us too.

We can either put good things into us so we speak good of others or we can choose to put bad things into us (or allow our past hurts to control us) and speak evil toward others.

As a pastor I have seen many people speak negatively about themselves and about others. I can tell they are really just projecting their hurts and pains. The sad part about it all is they do not realize that as they speak negatively about themselves and others it only affects their life in the same way.

Proverbs says: *A **man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled. 21. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. And those who love it will eat its fruit.*** Proverbs 18:20,21 (NKJV)

The only way to change our life is to change our words.

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Jeremiah 9 says... *“The heart is deceitful over all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? 10. I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”*

You might be asking yourself. **What does my heart have to do with all of this?** Well...it is all about our heart. You see when we speak things the words have to come from somewhere. What we speak is first formulated from our heart. When we speak we are speaking from what is within us!

“...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” Matthew 12:34 (NKJV)

Also look at Matthew 15:18, *“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”*

Some say age helps us to get past the negative words put into our life. But does it really, or do we just get good at hiding our pains and feel we can't do anything about it.

Story Man and women forgetting:

A married couple was very concerned that they were becoming to forgetful so they went to the doctor. After many test the doctor said everything was OK. He said that everyone started to forget a little as they grew older. He suggested the best plan of action was to write down things as they remembered them so they would not forget.

That night the wife said “I really could use some Ice cream” the husband said stay right there I will get it. The wife said “maybe you should write it down” The husband looked back and said “Hey I'm not going to forget to get the ice-cream. The wife said “yeah but I want syrup on it so maybe you had better write t down.” The husband turned back skewing his eyes saying. “Ice-cream and syrup I'm not going to forget that” the wife said “yeah but I also want nut” so maybe you had better write it down. The husband stopped turned and said “look, I'm not going to forget ice-cream, syrup and nuts.

As the husband went into the kitchen the wife could hear banging around of pots and pans. Not the sounds you would hear if you were getting ice-cream. A short time later the husband enters the living room the wife looks up as he places a tray with bacon, eggs, and orange juice on her lap. The wife looks up slowly shaking her head “OK where's the toast”

I am not making fun of getting old, but I did want to illustrate that **as we get older we tend to think we naturally get through the pains of life but mostly we just forget them or pretend they never happened.**

I talked with my mom.

She said it's a good thing you boys never got into trouble

I was amazed, my older brothers seemed to be constantly getting into trouble.

Later in the conversation she said “well I guess I realize you boys got into a lot of trouble I just choose to remember the times you didn't”

The Power of A Word

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* **So what do we do?** Do we choose to live life out with a lot of regrets that we will purposely just have to pretend they did not happen when we get older or do we look at God's plan for our life and choose to live a full life with memories we want to remember.

What do we do then! How do we change!

We need a circumcision that is of the heart, by the spirit.

Stop... Please don't let this confuse you... Simply put...circumcision is talking about "cutting off" or taking off that which is not needed. The only way to make our hearts right and thus change the way we speak is to deal with the heart. The part of our heart that is not needed (the evil speaking part) must be removed!

But you and I know that's not going to happen!... At least physically... So... It must happen spiritually.

Romans 2:29 says...*and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.*"

We must understand that **only God can circumcise the heart**, meaning cut off the hurts, the pains, the words, that have cause our hearts to ache so bad that we speak bad things about ourselves and about others.

God will give us a new heart and change the way we speak...

"Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh 20. That you may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and to them; and they shall be my people and I will be their God."

Ezekiel 11:19,20 (NKJV)

Proverbs 26:20 says...where there is no wood, the fire goes out;

In a way that seems to obvious. We all know that a fire needs wood to burn. If you take away the wood the fire goes out. Well... God is trying to make this simple for us to understand. If we take away the things that cause us to act, speak, and think badly...we will no longer do so...

I think by now we have figured it out... The only way we are going to change is with God's help. The only way God can help us is if we are in relationship with Him. Just like the events of life have formed who we are to this day and time so must God be allowed the same.

What do I mean? God will not impose Himself upon us. If you notice above in Ezekeil 11:19, God wants to give us one heart that follows after Him. Not a heart that tries to follow the worlds way and His way both at the same time. In order to do that God must supernaturally do surgery on our heart. The only way He can do that is to put with in us a new spirit (heart).

The way God has chosen to do this is awesome!

God became flesh so we could relate to Him. He became like us (but never sinned) so He could show us just how much He loves us. A love so great that He illustrated it by death. What greater love does someone have for you but to give their life for you!

The Power of A Word

by Pastor Tony McQueer Jan 6 2007

Now look at 2 Corinthians 5:17...*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

You see no one can come to the father (God) unless they come through Jesus...because Jesus is God! God choose to show His image through Jesus! Jesus is God in the flesh! There are many ways to say it...but bottom line is this:

If you look at 2 Corinthians 5:17 again (above). You will see that through Jesus we can be made a new creature. What does that mean? Earlier we talked about the need to have our hearts circumcised. That we needed to have the sin nature, the bad things that have come into our heart "cut off". The way God has chosen to make our hearts right is by coming in the flesh and showing us how great His love is for us.

At this point in time it is your decision to make.

We can be made new...but only if we have heart surgery... And the only one that can do heart surgery spiritually speaking is God. God choose to do this through Jesus Christ His Son.

A- Admit: You must admit that you are a sinner and in need of heart surgery

B- Believe: You must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He was crucified, buried, but alive today to hear your prayers in asking Him to save you!

C- Commit: You must commit your life to following Him. You must repent (change your mind about following your way and the worlds way) and choose to follow Jesus.

D- Deal with things: You must allow Jesus (the Word of God) to do surgery on your heart. You must honestly allow God to change us.

So now that I am saved what do I do? How do I allow Jesus to change my life?

The first thing to do is to recognize how powerful the words that have affected your lives are. If you have prayed receiving Jesus as your Savior that is great! Truly He has saved you and has begun the "cutting away" of the old part of your heart that is not of Him.

Excepting Jesus as your Savior has reconciled you back with God...When you die you will for eternity be with Him. But what do you do now... You see your not dead yet!

The story of the prince and the poor person: (author unknown)

A prince was giving a huge party at the castle one day. A poor person heard of the party and wanted to go; however he could not because proper cloths were required to enter into the castle. The prince heard of the poor man and sent his personal assistant to give the poor man

The Power of A Word

by Pastor Tony McQueer Jan 6 2007

some priestly cloths. The personal assistant said “These cloths are made of the finest threads and will never wear out, you can wear them the rest of your life and always be able to enter into the castle.” The prince was delighted to see the poor man at the party; however, the poor man looked tired. The prince was going to ask the poor man why he looked so tired when he glanced down and saw all the poor mans old cloths. The poor man said that he did not want to get rid of his old cloths just in case one day he would need them. The poor man never did get it. He carried his old cloths with him until the day he died. Instead of putting on the new cloths an trusting the prince the poor man decided it would better to keep his old baggage (cloths) Although the poor man could come and go as he please into the castle he was to tired to do anything of worth.

We must all learn from this poor man. We must understand that God does not want us to be tired all the time...to carry around our old cloths (baggage) God wants to give us new cloths to wear. Clothes that will allow us to enter the kingdom of heaven and have all the benefits of God. If we hang on to our old stuff we will always be to tired to enjoy or do the things God wants us to.

The Power Of The Word Of God

Isaiah 55:10-11

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, That may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11. So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

The first thing we must realize is: **If God’s Word is powerful enough to save us...it is powerful enough to change us!**

In Isaiah 55:10, God is letting us know that He is more than capable of delivering us from our troubles. He wants us to know that His Word will accomplish the purpose in which He has sent it.

This truth must be known and understood by us. If we are truly to be set free from the things that have condemn our hearts we must see that God’s communication to us in His Word is a mighty force that works in our behalf.

As we have grown up we have come to rely on the things of man. We fear things such as weapons of mass destruction and disease because we realize the power that is behind them. We have grown to rely on other humans and their abilities in order to deliver us safely from such perils.

We put our trust in President Bush to keep us safe. We put our trust in the doctors to make us well. I’m saying that we should not trust President Bush nor should we not trust doctors to help make us well agian. What I am saying is we need to realize that now that we are saved things are different. We must realize that our trust needs to be in God. God will use president Bush and guide the hands of a skillful surgeon, but bottom line is, it is God and only God who ultimately holds the plan for our life.

The Power of A Word

by Pastor Tony McQueer Jan 6 2007

We must come to a place where we put our confidence in God our Creator, our Savior more than we do ourselves and man. The only way we can do that is by first being saved and then following God's Word!

All Things Exist By The Power Of God's Words. (author unknown)

In Gen. 1:3 we read, "Then God said...". Hebrews 11:3 says, "the worlds were prepared by the word of God", and Heb. 1:3 says, "He upholds all things by the word of His power." God's words are powerful beyond our imagination. When we speak we merely warm the air a bit; when God speaks all of the universe trembles in the balance. A sense of the power latent in the words of God is sometimes conveyed through the device of God speaking with a thundering voice. In Ex. 20 we hear God's deafening voice shake the stones of Mt. Sinai. Isaiah has a similar experience, Is. 6:4, and so does the Apostle John, Rev. 1:10,15. The idea is that God's words are earth shattering in their effect and can not be ignored. We should try to hear all of God's words with a sense of this power in our minds.

Jesus Christ Is The "Word" Of God.

We already talked about salvation but let us not pass up an opportunity to consider God's Word for us to learn more....

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God 3. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1: 1-4 (NKJV).

Jesus is God's Word manifested...Jesus is the very reason we have life in the first place! Jesus is the revelation, the message, the very explanation of God to us! God has chosen to speak to us through Jesus... Hebrews 1:2 says... *Has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, thorough whom also He mad the worlds.*

You see... Not only is it impossible to be with God except through His Son Jesus (salvation) it is also impossible to grab hold of what God wants for our life except through the Word of God. That means we must read the Word (the Bible) that God has given us in order to know the plan God has for our life.

God has chosen Jesus as the vessel in which to speak to us, thus we must know the Word of God (Jesus) and allow Him to speak to us by His Word (the Bible) Through the spirit of God. Remember in Ezekiel God said... *and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh,...*

If you are saved the very spirit of Christ Jesus dwells in you. It is God who will help change your life...you can't... The spirit of God in you will help you...

Other verses to read: John 3:34, I John 1:1-4. It is impossible to have the "Word of God" without the words of God that are found in the gospel. So, all the power, grace, and love that God has to express to us in His Son are made known to us through the words of the scriptures. This is what Jesus means when he says, "the words I have spoken to you are spirit and are life", John 6:63.

The Power of A Word

by Pastor Tony McQueer Jan 6 2007

The Words Of God Bring Us Salvation.

We have come to a place in this world that words have little meaning. We (especially in Western Culture) have chosen to make life about ourselves. Thus the phrases. "If it feels good do it", as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else its OK", "All religions are the same because we all worship the same god"

We can only relate to "power" as a physical form of energy not realizing that there is a greater power that exist in the spiritual arena with our creator God.

Read Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, For it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek 17 For in it the righteousness of God is reveals from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.' (NKJV)

Romans not only tells us that it is God's power that saves us but that the gospel (the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus) is the very manifestation of God's power. So how does being saved change us?

First we realize that it is God who convinced our hearts, persuaded us to faith and trust in God to come to a place of repentance committing the rest of our life to Jesus (The Word of God)

Consider these passages:

I Cor. 1:18, There are certain thoughts concerning a man who died on a cross that Paul expressed in so many words. For those who were convinced by these words they constitute the very power of God. Through the "foolishness of the message preached", God saved them, v. 21.

Acts 11:14, How was Cornelius saved by words? When he heard the message concerning Christ he believed it and obeyed the gospel. God used the words preached by Peter to change Cornelius from being lost to being saved.

Rom. 10:13-15,17. How does God win the hearts of men to faith and salvation? Through His words.

John 20:30-31, John was under the impression that he had written something which might produce faith in a reader and thus lead them to salvation.

Acts 2:37, This verse tells it all. What convicted these people? What brought them to seek salvation in Christ? They heard something. They heard a sermon which expressed the essence of the good news concerning Christ and they were convicted by that message.

The Power of A Word

by Pastor Tony McQueer Jan 6 2007

I Peter 1:23-25, Just as a seed has the power to transform dead soil into a magnificent living tree, so the seed of God's word can transform the dead hearts of men into living souls. The proof of this is found in the lives of the Christians all around you.

God's Word Continues To Have Transforming Power In The Lives Of His People.
The more you entrust your life to the power of God's word the more it will change you into a child of light and make you into a person you never thought you could be.

I Peter 2:1-3, The word of God not only initiates the beginning of the new life in you, but it also nurtures that life and causes it to grow.

Jer. 23:29, God asks, "Is not my word like fire? declares the Lord, and like a hammer which shatters a rock?" Do you put yourself in the fire of God's teaching and on the anvil of His will? Or do you shrink from the heat of His words and the blows of His scriptures?

II Tim. 3:16-17, Do you really believe that the scriptures are sufficient for making you everything you need to be? Are you putting that conviction to the test?

Conclusion:

The Word of God brought the universe into existence.

The Word of God expresses all the power, greatness, and majesty of the Word of God, Jesus Christ,

It is the power of the Word of God that exerts to save your soul (if) you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead in order that you might be saved

It is the power of the Word of God that can change your life if you obey it and put your whole trust in the Word.

Like the rain God's Word (Isa. 55:10) God's Word does what it is set forth to do. God's word will never come back void (empty).

It is totally up to you... You must choose whether or not you will follow the Word of God! First in trusting Jesus as your Savior, secondly following the Word (the Bible, Jesus).