



Teaching Letter 27

Speaking God's Word - Part 1

“Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: ‘Behold, I have put My words in your mouth’ (Jeremiah 1:9 NKJ).

When I asked the Lord what His purpose for this teaching letter was, I heard, “To get My people to speak My Word.” In order to meet that objective immediately—would you mind (if you want) to say the following?

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJ).

Thank you. What did that do? For one thing, I feel better. I know—I’m being silly. However, it’s good to do what God wants as soon as possible. But why does God want His people to speak His Word?

God’s Word is His will and we are His voice on earth. God accomplishes His will by His Word and His Spirit—not by His Word lying on a coffee table or sitting in a bookshelf but by the Word of God that comes out of our mouths. The Word of God must be spoken to be effective. God wants His people to regularly speak His Word into situations, into our lives and others’ lives—even over cities, states and nations. When we speak a strategic Word in faith, power goes forth to accomplish God’s will.

Isaiah wrote: “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 it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 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” (Isaiah 55:10, 11 NKJ).

Jeremiah wrote: “Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: ‘Behold, I have put My words in your mouth’” (Jeremiah 1:9 NKJ). In Old Testament times, God chose some people to be prophets and priests who spoke and taught the Word of God. The Holy Spirit came upon certain individuals at specific times.

After Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit, it is possible for all God’s people to speak the Word of God powerfully. Jesus said, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me” (Acts 1:8 NKJ). In the Greek, the word translated in English as “witnesses” is *martus*—the derivative of our English word “martyr.” When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, our lives and words in witness to Jesus can have the power of a martyr’s witness.

By His Word Jesus healed sick bodies, delivered people from demons, raised the dead, and restored and renewed troubled and sick minds. Do people need healing, freedom, life, and restoration today? Do you have situations in your life or in your family that you want to see changed and you know God wants to see changed as well?

Jesus said, “. . . The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63 NKJ). The writer of Hebrews wrote: “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow. . . .” (Hebrews 4:12 NKJ). That was true then, and it’s true now. When Jesus spoke, people’s live and situations were changed. When we speak God’s Word in faith and by the Holy Spirit, our

lives, others' lives, even the destinies of nations can be changed.

I can imagine some of you thinking, how can she possibly compare our speaking God's Word with Jesus' speaking it? I've asked the same question. And I've spoken the Word of God into situations with what I considered faith—and nothing happened, seemingly. Then I became confused and discouraged.

Thank God I am no longer confused; however, I sometimes still get frustrated or a little discouraged because I don't always see immediate results. I am human and I want things immediately like most people. With God all things are possible, but all things are not immediate.

Three things are necessary to seeing results when we speak the Word of God. They are faith, perseverance and obedience. I will briefly discuss these important spiritual principles before I talk about various ways we can speak God's Word. I will continue this topic in the next teaching letter.

1. Faith

If you are a child of God, you already have faith. Your faith can grow and will to the extent that you read the Word, listen to it, memorize it, and so forth. We know "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17 NKJ). There is the gift of faith that is given at certain times and the measure of faith that is granted to each of us. We do not *try* to have faith nor do we work it up somehow. It is not a feeling. However, faith can sometimes rise in us, for example, when we hear the Word preached or hear someone's testimony.

For our speaking the Word of God to be effective, we must believe God's Word is true. We will believe the Word not only as we read and study it more and more but also as God gives experiential knowledge in some areas. When we experience an answer to prayer or a healing or God's help in some dilemma, our faith grows by leaps and bounds. Then we no longer have mere head knowledge. We have increased faith at a deeper level.

It is important that we grow in faith and diminish in doubt, fear and unbelief. Even though I have been a Christian for nearly 59 years, I am still growing in faith and actively seeking to do so. I

search out, speak, meditate on and memorize Scripture passages about faith, trust, doubt, fear, unbelief and the Word of God. I seek to know more and more of the character of God as well, through the Word and prayer. As I do these things, my faith increases.

We are taught by Paul in Ephesians 6 to put on the armor of God. The armor includes the shield of faith with which we "will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one [Satan]" and ". . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17 NKJ). The Word of God spoken by us is the offensive weapon by which we can defeat our spiritual enemies mentioned in Ephesians 6:12. This sword of the Spirit (the spoken Word of God) goes out of our mouth as it did with Jesus, for example, in His encounter with Satan in the wilderness.

Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father" (John 14:12 NKJ). I need to meditate on that one some more! I want to believe it at a deep level because I want it to happen through me. We have Jesus' words and all of Scripture to speak and to do the works—and greater—that He did.

Notice, Jesus said, ". . . he who believes in Me. . . ." will do these things. That's you and me.

(We will continue our discussion of Speaking God's Word in the next teaching letter.) SH

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

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