



## Speaking God's Word - Part 2

*“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).”*

The second spiritual requirement for seeing results when we speak God’s Word is . . . .

### 2. Perseverance

As I have said, all things are possible with God, but all things are not immediate. Sometimes things happen immediately when we speak God’s Word or, should I say, when God supernaturally empowers His spoken Word for a *now* miracle. Likewise, He occasionally immediately answers our prayers. Most of the time, however, He requires our perseverance.

This can be frustrating because we often do not see anything happening. Also, we do not know how long we are going to have to persevere to receive answers to our prayers or to see things happen through our speaking God’s Word into a situation. It can be a week, two years, two decades, a lifetime—or anywhere between.

Why does God work this way? First, He values perseverance. Perseverance is a characteristic of God, and He loves to see it developed in greater degree in His people. God is patient (persevering) with us and with those who are not His children. We are the beneficiaries of His perseverance. He is able to suffer long with us as He works to produce the fruit of the Spirit in us, for example. We read in 1 Peter 3:9: “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

James knew the trials that produce perseverance would be worth it. He wrote in chapter 1 of his letter, “My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience [endurance or perseverance]. But let patience [endurance or perseverance] have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:2-4 NKJ). In other words, persevere in your persevering.

God values perseverance because it produces spiritual maturity (“perfect and complete”) in us. So He will have us pray or speak without seeing any results with our natural eyes for a while, all along desiring that we will see with eyes of faith and persevere until the answer or results come through into our dimension. By faith and perseverance we receive and are blessed—“lacking nothing.”

It’s when we do not “see” something happening in response to our prayers and speaking God’s Word that we develop trust and faith. That’s the goal. Faith is not faith as long as we “see.” Remember, “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1 NKJ). Even though it seems that having to persevere while not yet seeing any change or breakthrough might actually erode faith, God will cause it to build faith in those who choose to trust His faithfulness, ability, love and timing.

If we are speaking God’s Word over our lives or into situations in which we have the clear will of God, we can expect God to be working whether or not we are seeing anything happen. I can and will—by His help—trust God to be working all things “together for good to those who

love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28 NKJ).

The third spiritual requirement for seeing results when we speak God’s Word is . . .

### 3. Obedience

Jesus completely obeyed God. He is the only person—and always will be the only one—who never sinned. Paul wrote: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23 NKJ). Jesus’ perfect obedience to the Father was one factor that allowed the Holy Spirit to flow in fullness of power when He spoke.

Of course, we know Jesus was and is the Word of God—in human flesh. He is the second Person of the Trinity. However, Jesus’ complete obedience to God was accomplished as a man. He was tempted “in all points” as we are tempted, “yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15 NKJ). Jesus relied on the Holy Spirit in the same way as we must. He is our example.

Though we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, very few (possibly none) of us live in complete obedience to God. We also are subject to frailties, weaknesses and sins, such as self-condemnation, double mindedness, divided heart, stubbornness, pride, fear, doubt, unbelief, and a long list of others. These all work to diminish the power and flow of the Holy Spirit through us, both as we live and speak. The Holy Spirit is not diminished; we are hindered to the degree we live and speak according to our fleshly nature and not according to the Spirit.

The consequences of disobedience are seen in the lives of many in Scripture, beginning with Adam and Eve, then Cain, and on down to King Saul, King David, and many others. From their example, we see it is possible for God’s people to directly disobey God. Disobedience is not a matter of “having a problem” with doubt, fear, unbelief, self-condemnation—all of which are sins and need to be confessed and overcome. Disobedience is doing what you know God says not to do or not doing what God says to do.

Jonah is an example of not doing what God told him to do. The consequence was a great storm which resulted in Jonah being thrown overboard and swallowed by a big fish. After three days in that condition, Jonah repented and agreed to preach to Ninevah as God had told him. Then God caused the fish to vomit Jonah out onto the shore. The consequences of disobedience are painful and often messy. I believe by our disobedience we remove ourselves from God’s protection, and we become an open target for Satan.

We can also be moving too slowly toward following the Lord in complete obedience. We may know God has told us to do something, and we move a little but hesitate a lot. That makes us a straggler in the flock which is following the Good Shepherd. A sheep which lags too far behind the shepherd is more susceptible to the attack of wolves. Our enemy Satan goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Stragglers are his easiest prey.

Of course, known and willful disobedience in our lives will hinder the effectiveness of our speaking God’s Word. Not only our words but also our lives must be in agreement with the Holy Spirit. Speaking God’s Word and knowingly disobeying Him at the same time is an exercise in futility. God’s Word will be empowered by the Holy Spirit when we submit ourselves to Him and to His Word in obedience. If we want the power of God’s Word working in our lives and through our speaking, we must bow to King Jesus in true surrender.

*(We will complete our discussion of Speaking God’s Word in the next teaching letter.) SH*

GOD’S WORD FOR TODAY

Teaching Letter 28

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