

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

Out of Town: The Dowlings, Mrs. Belinda Law and Sarah Law, Mrs. Angela Law, Connie Law, and Violet Law.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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The Power of Words

By Derek Long

It is easy to become careless when it comes to the things we say. We can fall into the trap of saying things without giving the proper amount of thought to what it is we are about to say. Words are powerful! God expects us to give thought to the words we use because they are powerful. James 1:19-20 says, "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (NKJV). When we are slow to speak, we are thinking about the things we are about to say before we say them. Proverbs 18:21 helps us to see why it is important to think about what we are going to say. It says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (NKJV). Our words can have the power to impart death or life to others depending on how we use them. Our words have a bearing on whether we experience death or live ourselves depending on how we use them for we will give an account for every idle word (Matthew 12:36-37). James 3:1-12 speaks about the power of the tongue and points out that even though it is small it has great power just as a bit has power to control a horse, a rudder steers a ship, and a little fire can burn a great forest.

Our words have the power to encourage or discourage others. In Numbers 32:9 Moses reminds the children of Israel of how the ten spies' report, "discouraged the heart of the children of Israel." Our words can have a discouraging impact upon others as well. Colossians 3:21 instructs fathers, "do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged" (NKJV). Fathers can discourage their children by the things they do but also through the things they say. Our words can serve as a source of encouragement and comfort to others. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 says, "Therefore comfort one another with these words" (NKJV). Proverbs 12:25 says, "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad" (NKJV). Our words can help lift someone out of the depths of depression and provide them with hope and encouragement. Let's make sure we, like Barnabas, use our words to encourage rather than to discourage others (Acts 11:23).

Our words have the power to reveal what is in our heart. Jesus teaches our words come from what is in our heart (Matthew 12:33-37). A person cannot read what is in someone else's mind or heart and yet one can learn what someone is thinking by the words they use. Our words can display to others the goodness which is in our heart or they can display to others the wickedness in our heart. If one finds their words are not what they need to be or want them to be, then a person most likely needs to change their heart for our words come from what is inside (Proverbs 4:23).

The Bible teaches not only do our words have power for good or evil. Words overall are powerful throughout the Bible. In the beginning, it was the word of God which created the world as God spoke it into existence (Genesis 1:1-3; Psalm

33:6-9; Hebrews 11:3). God's word is something very powerful. Peter acknowledged the power of Jesus' words when he said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68, NKJV). God's word has the power to give us life (John 6:63; Acts 5:20; Matthew 4:4). God's word is capable of saving our souls (James 1:21). Romans 1:16 speaks about the power of the gospel to save mankind. The power of the gospel demonstrates the great power words have for the gospel is a message preached which can save (1 Corinthians 1:21). The words of the Bible are so important to the person who wants to know God because they reveal to us the mind of God (1 Corinthians 2:9-16).

If we recognize the power of words, then we hopefully we become more careful about the words we use. Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (NKJV). Colossians 4:6 says, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (NKJV). Proverbs 15:23 says, "A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!" Let's word to be people who use our words to edify, to have our speech be seasoned with salt, and to speak in due season. Let's say what needs to be said, in the way it needs to be said, and at the time it needs to be said realizing how powerful our words are!