

Chapter 03

You Get the power of God

When you speak the Word of God

Speak the Word of God, and your voice becomes His voice!

Dead religion gives you the checklist:

- 1)Thou shalt do all these things!
- 2)Thou shalt not do those things!

But here's the problem:

Religion only beats you over the head with the rules, but gives you no power to succeed. Then it heaps shame and guilt upon you when you fail to live up to its standards. The devil loves this because it serves his kingdom very well.

Just as the mirror you look into when you get up in the morning only shows you how much you need to wash your face and comb or brush your hair, in the same way, the "Law" only reveals your sin problem, but does nothing to help you to overcome the sin problem.

I was raised in such a religion, one that heavily emphasizes rites and rituals, but teaches nothing about how to use the Bible for practical application. So, like most of the members of this religion, I was totally illiterate regarding the Bible.

I was in my 40's when I began listening to Bible teaching on the radio. I began to discover how the Bible is actually full of wisdom for everyday life, such as the following principle:

When people hear someone speak the Word of God they are hearing Jesus speak!

Key Supporting Verse: *“He who hears you hears me and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”* (Luke 10:16a)

This is important because Jesus left us here so that we would become His disciples. His purpose is to work through each of us to continue the work of spreading the Gospel Truth that He began when He was here!

And what was it that Jesus did?: He spoke, He taught.

Jesus taught all of us a very important principle in that first part of Luke 10:16. When people hear a follower of Jesus (could be you or me) as we speak the Word of God (anything in the Bible), the listeners are hearing Jesus speaking through the voice of the person..

However, if you read the verse in context, you'll see that Jesus commissioned those who had dedicated their lives to doing His work. There is no indication that the power of His spoken Word is available to unbelievers or even casual, cultural Christians.

Nevertheless, the good news for us is that there is great power in the Word of God. This is not like fictional characters who, by way of special effects, can cause "supernatural" things to happen. That's fiction. But the Word of God is not fiction.

Biblical Principle:

The Word of God contains the power of God! Here's how that is true:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

(John 1:1)

Might I also add: not only is it Gospel Truth that "the Word was God", but also that the Word of God is now, and always will be God.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14)

I don't understand the "how" of those words, but I believe that somehow God literally is His Word!

As someone has said, the Bible is the *“written Word”*, and Jesus is the *“living Word”*

Scriptures showing the power in the Word of God:

“For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

The Word of God seems foolish to many. In reality, it contains the power of God!

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”

(2 Timothy 1:7)

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16)

“for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

It may "feel" awkward at first, to speak God's Word out loud in the presence of others. Don't let that stop you! Don't be ashamed. Those "feelings" were likely put into you by a demon hoping to get you to back down and not give voice to what they hate.

On the contrary, speak out boldly! Take a step of faith and open your mouth, not because of what you feel, but because of what you know! Put the devil in his place, and you will soon become aware of the presence of God as never before!

But you can't give to others what you do not have. That's why I keep banging the "Scripture memory" drum!

The devil does not pull up a chair and wait while you go and find your Bible to search for a verse. Without God's Word "in your heart", you are like a soldier being shoved into an intense battle zone with no training, and thus without a clue as to how to use the weapons of warfare. And believe me, you are in a battle!!

Here's an example of how Jesus applied the principle of quoting Scripture when being harassed by the devil. He modeled it for us as an example of how we can use the spoken Word of God to rebuke the devil.

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

“‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and“‘On their hands they will bear you up,lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.”

(Matthew 4:1-11)

I don't want to move on without calling your attention to the fact that the devil waited until Jesus was at His weakest point, having fasted for forty days, when he made his run at Jesus. That's the way devils operate. They are bullies, and bullies exploit us at our times of greatest weakness.

In that passage, Jesus demonstrated for us how the spoken Word has power over temptations of the devil!

Do you realize how awesome and important that is? You speak an appropriate Scripture passage, and in doing so you put the lie to whatever the devil is trying to get you to believe and act on.

When you or I do that, the devil has to obey!

Why? Because to the devil, there is no difference between Jesus speaking the Word and you or I speaking the Word! The devil feels the power and does what he's told!

The power of God is in His Word, and we access that power when we speak the Word of God!

In the following passage God revealed a glimpse of the grandeur and majesty with which He regards His spoken Word:

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:10-11)

God spoke: And look what happened:

He spoke -- and the universe came into existence.

He spoke through Moses -- and the Red Sea parted.

He spoke -- and the lepers were made clean.

He spoke -- and Lazarus rose from the dead.

He spoke -- and water turned into wine.

He spoke -- and multitudes were fed.

He spoke -- and the blind could see, the dumb could speak, the deaf could hear, and the crippled, the lame, the paralyzed, and the bleeding were healed.

He spoke *"It is finished!"* -- and thereby threw open the gates of Heaven for all who believe in Him and obey Him.

By way of story, God has even revealed to us a "How-To" process for accessing the power of His Word, thus giving us a part in His process of bringing about things that would be impossible without Him:

The valley of the dry bones:

'The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, You know." Then He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord . Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ;And I looked, and behold, there were

sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."

So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. (Ezekiel 37:1-10)

Notice the first order of business:

The first thing He told the prophet Ezekiel to do was to "Hear the Word of the Lord"

God is saying to the prophet (and to us), "This is what I want you to say. Now, say it!

This was an impossible situation: bringing life back into a bunch of bones. But not just any old bones; dry bones!! God instructed a mere mortal--just like any one of us--to speak words that He gave them.

The first thing God wants us to do when facing an "impossible" situation is to begin to speak His Word over it!

He's given us the words to say. They're all right there, in the Bible. And the more of the Bible passages we know, the better equipped we are for victory over the devil.

The devil will not pull up a chair and wait patiently while you look up a verse or call a friend.

That brings me to the point I've been laboring to make all along!

You cannot speak God's Word over your situation unless you know His Word.

In the heat of the battle, when the devil has you whimpering in fear and is freaking you out to the max, there's no time to try to look it up in your Bible or call a friend. No, you have to know God's Word. Scripture memory is the answer.

An important point regarding the principle that calls us to speak the Word Of God:

Recall that in Isaiah 55:11 (quoted earlier) God said His Word *"shall accomplish that which I purpose"*

We, as His ambassadors, are called to do what He would do if He were here in the flesh. We're instructed to do His work. That likely does not include requesting a new car or thinking we are empowered to call down the wrath of heaven upon someone we don't like!

So I'll say it again: you cannot know what God would do until you have a good grasp of what He has said in His Word.

Think of it like this: Suppose you were in desperate need of legal help.

Let's imagine you've been unjustly accused of a serious crime, but the evidence against you appears overwhelming.

Which of these people would you rather have as your advocate?

A) Someone who is "interested in" the law and plans to go to law school.

B) A seasoned top-notch defense attorney with decades of experience.

Right... so would I!

Speaking for myself, I want to be the biblical equivalent of that top-notch attorney!

I'm gladly paying the price to reach that goal. It's not a burden; it's a joy and a delight!

How about you?