What is Backing What You Say?



"Who is this that darkens counsel [questioning my authority and wisdom] By words without knowledge? Job 38:2

[You said to me] 'Who is this that darkens and obscures counsel [by words] without knowledge?' Therefore [I now see] I have [rashly] uttered that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Job 42:3

The Book of Job is a very interesting conversation between Job, his friends and God. But one of the things that a close look at this book shows us isn't necessarily about the trials of Job alone, but also the power behind words. And this is a running theme throughout the Bible.

Yes, what you say matters. However, when you have an understanding of the power behind your words, then what you say can go from being causal and empty to powerful and prophetic.

In this study we will explore some scriptures that will equip us to navigate the use of our words with understanding. Our prayer is that the Lord will open up our understanding, so we know not just what to say, but also the best time to do so.

Stay Connected.

Day 1 Setting a Guard

'Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips [to keep me from speaking thoughtlessly].' Psalms 141:3

Every word that comes out of our mouths starts from a thought in our mind. Some thoughts are well formed and thought through, some are spur of the moment reactions. We may have good intentions, but the manner in which our words are communicated may negate the impact of what we were trying to achieve. So what is critical is not just what we say, but the way we say it.

'For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.' Luke 6:45b

'In conclusion, my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable.' Philippians 4:8

'Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.' Ephesians 4:15

The Lord has provided us with a filtering solution if we choose to make use of it. When we consistently pray this anchor scripture into our lives, the Holy Spirit begins to help us shape not just what we think about but also the way we think which will ultimately impact what we say.

Prayer: Dear Lord, fill my heart with what pleases you. Give me the grace to surrender my thoughts to you. Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth and keep watch over the door of my lips, keep me from speaking thoughtlessly and let me only speak words that are filled with truth, wisdom, understanding and love.

Day 2 Commanding the Day

"Since your days began, have you ever commanded the morning, and caused the dawn to know its place..." Job 38:12

There was an interesting conversation going on with God and Job when the Lord asked Job a critical question: have you ever commanded the morning...? When the Lord wants to see something happen, He calls it into being. It's not a request, it's a command. This tells us that the day can respond to the commands we issue it, should we choose to do so.

'Day after day pours forth speech, and night after night reveals knowledge.' Psalms 19:2

'The day is Yours, the night also is Yours...' Psalms 74:16a

'Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.' Mark 1:35

What message does each day and night speak concerning you? Have you taken the initiative to instruct the day or are you just waiting to see what happens and then react to it? Jesus gave us the template to follow by getting up very early in the day to pray. It's from the place of prayer He received guidance on what to do during the day and what to call forth. Are you spending time in prayer in the morning to listen or just to pour out your requests? What instructions are you receiving from the Lord which you'll use to galvanize your day? What demands are you placing on the day to respond to you?

Action Step: Take time today to speak God's guidance into the day (Psalm 32:8), declare that you'll be filled with the knowledge of God's will for the day (Colossians 1:9), instruct the day to be fruitful and the earth to yield it's goodness to you and all that concerns you (Ezekiel 34:27), speak the Lord's peace and prosperity into the day (Zechariah 8:12), call forth God's wisdom, favour and growth (Luke 2:52). You're not limited to these alone, there's much more in the Bible to speak into your day.

Day 3 Covenant Backing

'Let those who are experts at cursing— whose cursing could rouse Leviathan — curse that day.' Job 3:8

Yesterday we looked at the power behind commanding the day and from the scripture above in Job we see that there are those who were termed experts at cursing the day. The important thing to note is that there's no day that's empty of instructions. That you are not speaking blessings into your day does not mean others are not issuing negative instructions into the day.

'No curse can touch Jacob; no magic has any power against Israel' Numbers 23:23a

'Blessed is everyone who blesses you, O Israel, and cursed is everyone who curses you.' Numbers 24:9b

In the verses above a king called Balak had tried to hire a prophet called Balaam to curse the Israelites because he was threatened by their population. However, not only could Balaam not curse them, each time he spoke he blessed Israel and cursed Balak instead. Why was this?

'I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." 'Genesis 12:3

'I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered.' Psalms 89:34

Because of the power of God's covenant with Abraham, there was no way a curse would stand over the Israelites. What does this mean for you? First is that a covenant is two ways – God with you and you with God. We must constantly ensure we deliberately bring our hearts into alignment with God and our lives under the Lord's covering and protection, because as we have seen, there are those who are experts at cursing the day. Secondly, as you bless your day make sure you are not speaking empty words but scripture which is backed by the covenant of God's faithfulness.

Reflect: What gives weight to what you say is not in the richness of the words, but the power of the covenant with God.

Day 4

Who Said So ...

'Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." '1 Kings 17:1

In life it's not just what is being said that matters, but who is saying it. Elijah said there would be no rain and nothing happened. He was certain of what he said because he dwelt in the presence of the Lord and he knew that based on their relationship, his words had God's backing.

'Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed at once. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and asked, "Why could we not drive it out?" He answered, "Because of your little faith [your lack of trust and confidence in the power of God...' Matthew 17:18-20a

The disciples of Jesus were not able to heal a boy possessed, yet with one rebuke the boy was healed at once. When the disciples asked why Jesus explained to them that the reason was their lack of trust and confidence in God's power. For Jesus, His intimacy with the Father propelled His faith and put power behind His words because He spoke with understanding and authority.

'And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit.' 1 Corinthians 2:4

'But the evil spirit retorted, "I know and recognize and acknowledge Jesus, and I know about Paul, but as for you, who are you?" Acts 19:15

Paul also had such a close walk with the Lord and dependence on the Holy Spirit that he knew that what he preached wasn't based on clever words, but on the power of the Holy Spirit, which led to the miraculous results we saw in his life. Conversely when the 7 sons of Sceva tried to exorcise a demon based on Paul's relationship with the Lord, not only did the evil spirit refuse to acknowledge them, it beat them badly into a state nudity.

Question: Is your voice recognized and acknowledged in the unseen realm?

Day 5

What You Tolerate

'Receive this truth: Whatever you forbid on earth will be considered to be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you release on earth will be considered to be released in heaven.' Matthew 18:18

The Bible doesn't say whatever the Lord forbids on earth, it says whatever You forbid, which means the responsibility is yours. To forbid means to refuse to allow something. Is it possible that there are things in your life that the Lord doesn't desire for you but you're allowing to remain in your life? It may have been there for so long you have been accustomed to it and may even have begun to define yourself by it.

The Bible tells us that you have the authority to refuse to allow certain things in your life. You don't forbid with a thought, you do it with words. But for the words to be effective, you need to know what the Bible says concerning the matter.

You can forbid sickness because the Bible says Jesus was bruised for our transgressions and by His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53). It also says no sickness shall come near our dwelling and no plague near our homes (Psalm 91).

Is it fear? The Bible says we should be strong, confident and courageous (Joshua 1)

Do you want to banish ingratitude to God, then personalise Psalm 100.

What about certain aspects of your mind and character? Declare that you are a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God and that daily you are transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12)

Action Step: Above are just a few examples, the Bible is loaded with so much more. Understand what your rights are concerning a matter, forbid the enemy's activities in your life in that area and speak God's word over the matter. But most importantly follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and align with whatever He instructs you to do.

Day 6

What You Believe

'We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.' 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Have you ever been in a situation where there's a misalignment between your words and your thoughts? Where your lips may be saying one thing but your mind is believing something else? Whenever that happens, it is what you believe in your mind that will form your reality. Thoughts have a tangible substance and you will see the impact of whatever you consistently think in your life even though your lips may be saying something else.

'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the worldly forces of this darkness, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.' Ephesians 6:12

Anything the enemy says about us is a false argument and these arguments show up in our minds. When that happens, we have two choices. Either we accept the thought and give it permission to form our reality, or we take the thought captive and bring it under the obedience of Christ. To make our thoughts obey Christ we must first understand that we don't capture thoughts with thoughts, we capture them by speaking the truth of God's word concerning the situation.

'I assure you and most solemnly say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea!' and does not doubt in his heart [in God's unlimited power], but believes that what he says is going to take place, it will be done for him [in accordance with God's will].' Mark 11:23

Jesus, our greatest teacher shows us clearly that it's not enough to just speak the words. We must believe in our hearts/minds that what we are saying will actually come to pass. The strength of our belief will determine how much of what we have said we will see come to reality.

Reflect: As powerful as God's word is, if your faith is not backing what you're saying, then you're just speaking empty words.

Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

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