

THE POWER OF WORDS

(#6 A JOURNEY THROUGH EPHESIANS)

Introduction: The power of words

- Words can be
 - Sharp – depending on context, can bring a warning of danger
 - Mainly has a negative result
 - Piercing – hit the soul
 - Persuading – power for good or evil

1. God's Words are Powerful

- “God said...” = creation (Genesis 1)
- Jesus is “The Word” (John 1:1-3)

Hebrews 1:3 *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word...*

- He sustains all things
- Jesus has the words of life (John 6:68)

Ephesians 6:17 *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

- Swords: short; two-edged; cut & thrust

2. How God Speaks

(a) By His Spirit:

1 Corinthians 2:13 *This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.*

- Interpreting spiritual truths to spiritual people.

(b) Through His People:

1 Corinthians 12:8 *To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another, the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit...*

Wisdom and knowledge that are above your pay grade

- Prophecy – God’s word into a current or future situation

1 Corinthians 14:3 *But everyone who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement, and comfort.*

3. Written Word of God

Hebrews 4:12 *For the sword of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

- The Word penetrates
- It divides soul and spirit
- It judges thoughts
- It exposes attitudes of the heart

4. How to use the Word as a Weapon

- Sword was used in hand-to-hand combat
 - Both offensive and defensive

ILLUSTRATION: Matt with bayonet

- How did Jesus use the Word?
 - He said: “it is written....”
 - Most powerful in its context

(a) Atmosphere Shift

Psalm 149:6 *May the praise of God be in their mouths, and a double-edged sword in their hands...*

- Context: to bring spiritual enemies to their knees

Psalm 149:9b *This is the glory of all His saints. Praise the Lord.*

(b) Areas of Provision

ILLUSTRATION: Luke 4. Jesus was hungry, and devil says: “prove who you are...”

Luke 4:4 *Jesus answered, ‘It is written: “Man does not live on bread alone”.’*

(c) Chasing money, prestige, or power:

ILLUSTRATION: Jesus was tempted with earthly power and splendour by devil.

Luke 4:8 *Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only’.’*

(d) Testing God to see if He will provide

- Do you ever do something outlandish and see if God will rescue you?
 - Context: grumbling at Massah

ILLUSTRATION: Devil tempted Jesus to do just that

Luke 4:12 *Jesus answered, ‘It says: “do not put the Lord your God to the test”.’*