

O Be Careful Little Mouth What You Say

As a young child, one of the first songs I can remember singing in Sunday School was, “O Be Careful Little Eyes What You See.” The lyrics to one verse of this song is: “O be careful little mouth what you say, O be careful little mouth what you say, for the Father up above, is looking down in love, so be careful little mouth what you say.” This truth is a powerful lesson for little ones, but even more so for us big children today!

God loves us and knows the power of words! Words can literally bring us into bondage or set us free! God tells us in Deuteronomy 30:19 that today He has set before us blessing and cursing, life or death. The choice is up to us. The question for each of us to examine today is, “What are we choosing to proclaim with our mouths? Is it producing blessing and life, or is it producing cursing and death?”

For many years, I have been intrigued with the story of King Jehoshaphat, when three armies came up against him and the people of Judah. Scripture records in 2 Chronicles 20 that King Jehoshaphat and the children of Judah first sought the Lord, prayed and fasted when they heard that this vast army was coming up against them. God answered their prayer and told them that the battle was not theirs, but His, to stand firm and see the deliverance of the Lord. King Jehoshaphat and his army choose to trust God and to proclaim praise from their lips. When they marched out to meet the opposing three armies, they found them all dead. What happened? According to 2 Chronicles 20:22, “And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.” It goes on to reveal that two of the armies, (children of Ammon and Moab) first slay the army of mount Seir, and then they turned on each other and destroy one another. What mass chaos it must have been! I cannot help but wonder if these armies did not contribute to their destruction by the words of their mouths. Could it have started simply with a careless word uttered by one, escalating to a rampage of fear, distrust, violence and death?

When I think about an ambushment, and how it catches one off guard, it reminds me of negative, careless words. Are they not too a source of ambushment, with the power to attack, injure and ultimately destroy. Even though it sounds pretty crazy to slay your own army and those who are helping you fight, I believe this is exactly what is happening today amongst God’s children, in our homes, churches, work places and communities. Careless words fly everywhere.

In Phase II of the New Hope materials, one of the assignments was to develop our own “Put off...Put On List and to speak it over our life for at least 90 days. On this list provided were several that pertained to words: gossip, evil speaking, complaining, profanity, and idle words, to mention a few.

One that was included on my personal list was: I put off idle words because God’s Word says, “But I say to you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36). Ouch! Every idle word! That’s huge! Our words are to edify one another, not tear each other down (Ephesians 4:29). If we could see in the spiritual realm, I wonder if the words we speak to one another that are not edifying actually looks just like that scene that King Jehoshaphat and his army came upon, soldiers slain by their own. O be careful little mouth what you say!

I’m learning to put on a bridled tongue, which lately means that I don’t have much to say! It’s humbling to review your thoughts before speaking them, and realize that “No, that doesn’t edify,

keep quiet, and again, no, that doesn't either, be still." This not only applies to what we say to or about one another, but what we say about ourselves!

A review of the "Who God Says I Am In Christ" statements would be quite valuable right here. Are we speaking and holding fast to these truths for our lives? Are we also speaking with confidence God's Word over our life? What we say with our mouth will give us away.

How can we say, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want," and then complain about not having enough. How can we say, "By Christ's stripes we were healed" but yet continuously speak how sick we are?

Early this year, I felt impressed during my quiet time with the Lord to look up Hezekiah 4:17. I did not understand at first why the Lord lead me here, as I discovered after leafing through the Old Testament prophets, that there is not a book in the Bible entitled Hezekiah! However, much to my delight, I was introduced instead to the King Hezekiah. In 2 Kings 18:5 it says: "Hezekiah trusted in, leaned on, and was confident in the Lord, the God of Israel; so that neither after him nor before him was anyone of all the kings of Judah like him. For he clung and held fast to the Lord and ceased not to follow Him, but kept His commandments, as the Lord commanded Moses."

It was not until several days later that the rest of the mystery of "Hezekiah 4:17" was revealed to me. God led me to Romans [4:17](#) which says, "(As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickens the dead and calls those things which be not as though they were." I literally jumped out of my chair with excitement. This passage is one that I had learned in Phase III of the New Hope materials. The importance of speaking into existence the things which be not as though they were; the things which God has ordained. With this particular teaching, there had been an assignment, which I had not done. I needed no further prodding, I quickly got to it! (If you have not gone through Phase III of the New Hope materials, or the Faith and Trust book, which contains the last half of Phase III, I strongly encourage you to do this. This truth alone will change your life!)

Since that time, I have learned the intense value of speaking God's Word over my life and placing my confidence in Him alone, not circumstances around me. So how can we say, The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want, even when a bill is due and the money is not in the account? Or how can I say, "By Christ's stripes, my daughter is healed, even though her body still seizes?"

Simply...trust, lean on, and be confident in the Lord! Cling and hold fast to Him, cease not to follow Him, but keep His commandments. Remember, what God says He will do...He will do! Speak it, Proclaim it, Hold fast to it! Do what Romans 4:17 tells us to do by speaking those things which be not as though they are. Because the reality is...In Christ, His work is finished. I am healed, I do not lack, I am His...! Praise the Lord! "I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth!"

Choose this day: I will be careful what my mouth says! For in this amazing covenant relationship that I share with my Lord, when I choose to glorify Him with my praise and to speak only what is right, He promises to show me the salvation of God (Psalm 50:23)!