

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, January 23, 2011
Speaking Life

I've been speaking about our need to have the Word of God in our lives. It is truly the foundation of our faith. Genuine faith is not a static belief system, but a way of life. As it has been said, without it we can't please God and with it nothing is impossible. Faith prompts action and as James tells us, it's our actions that reveal our faith. Faith begins in the heart, then the mind grabs the potential, and the will engages in a course of action. Jesus taught that whatever fills our heart would come out of our mouth. It is sometimes alarming to hear what comes out of our mouths, revealing the depths of our hearts. When we are found wanting, we can be comforted in knowing that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) Notice that it's our words that reveal our heart and it's our words that cleanse it...i.e. if we confess!

The power of the tongue is amazing. God spoke and everything came into being. God said, "Let there be... and there was!" We have been created in his image. Do you think he might want us to use the power of speech to create a different environment for ourselves? In **Romans 4:17** Paul refers to God as ***the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were***. He called Abraham the father of many nations long before it ever came to be. You may say, "Well that's God and he is the only one who could do that." Jesus told us that we would do the things he did, even to a greater degree. He revealed who the Father is and we are created in his image. Maybe God wants us to stop selling ourselves short and take his word seriously. I'm not in any way trying to make ourselves puffed up and thinking more highly of ourselves than we should. I'm merely saying that maybe we've hidden behind a false humility and not taken God at his Word, and I emphasize **His Word**. Look at the following Scriptures.

Proverbs 18:21

21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (NIV)

Proverbs 13:3

3 He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin. (NIV) (My note here is that our self-limiting and negative talk is what needs to be guarded against, not faith talk.)

Matthew 12:33-37

33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers, **how can you who are evil say anything good?** For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 **For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**" (NIV)

Colossians 3:16-17 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly **as you teach and admonish one another** with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (NIV)

Psalms 19:14 **May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart** be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. (NIV)

Matt 10:7-8

7 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.(NIV)

Matt 24:35

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (NIV)

Let's speak the will of God over our lives, our families, our church, our community, and beyond!