

Ichthus Bible School

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The Word and words

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Notes by Faith Forster

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NOTES

A. The Word

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. *John 1:1-5*

In Genesis Ch 1 we see God creating the world through His Word (Jesus) which came with His breath (the Holy Spirit). Christian linguists have pointed out that this trinitarian nature of God lies at the root of language and words. **The Mind of God, the Word of God and the Spirit (breath) of God.**

In Genesis 3:1-4, we see Satan as a serpent immediately questioning God's word to Adam. Words have power as we shall see. And twisting words, especially those of God, is where evil entered the world.

B. Words

- i) The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about the tongue and the words we speak.

See Proverbs 12:17-22

18:21

21:23

“The mouth is where the mind comes into the open - mind what you say...” (Author unknown).

- ii) “Death and life are in the power of the tongue...”
(Proverbs 18:21)

“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing...”
(James 3:10)

Do we need to go on a fast from words?

C. The Word and Creation

- i) God blessed the created world through Jesus the Word (see Genesis 1:3,7,10,12,28 etc.). He caused it to be fruitful, to have light, to have boundaries (e.g. the sea), to bring forth life and fruit, He filled the air and the seas with living creatures and commanded the earth to bring forth animal life.

Finally, he spoke as the Trinity and spoke out the creation of Man and Woman in His image. Then He blessed them, made them fruitful, and gave them authority over the earth...

We can see that humans have not always taken hold of that blessing.

Is that why Extinction Rebellion has risen up?

D. God’s word is powerful and fruitful (Isaiah 55:11)

- i) He demonstrated this in the story of Gideon (Judges 6). Consider what he says to Gideon that changed him from a weak, fearful man into a deliverer of the people of God from their fearsome enemy.

God called Gideon ‘a mighty man of valour’; told him to “go in this might of yours”; and said “I will be with you and you shall defeat the Midianites”. And it was so! We so often, like Gideon, speak negative things about ourselves and our situation.

- ii) God teaches His prophets to speak life into deathly situations. See Ezekiel 37:1-14.

E. Jesus and words

- i) Jesus demonstrated that His own words, empowered by the Spirit, brought life. Remember the centurion’s servant (Matthew 8:5-13) and the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17).
- ii) Jesus taught His disciples that words of faith, born of the Spirit, can move mountains (Matt 21:21) and when uttered in prayer to God have power to move His heart to respond.
- iii) We use words to preach the gospel, and when empowered by the Holy Spirit, they can change hearts and minds.

John and Betty Stam were missionaries to China. They were accused of false words and martyred in 1934 for their faith. They wrote the truth they had found in these words:

*“in words we have a weapon
More mighty than a gun
They can sway a multitude
Or move the heart of one...”*

F. Negative Words

Just as our positive, Spirit-filled, words have power, so do our negative words. It is easy to take on the mind of the world rather than the mind of Christ.

The Unpardonable Sin – Matt 12:31-33, and our moral responsibility for our words (Matt 12:34-37).

Do we take this seriously? We will have to give account of every negative, gossiping, poisonous, careless word we speak. Let's seek forgiveness and cleansing for our words.

G. Damning words, Cursing words

Most cursing is in the form of words. We will be judged over every word we speak, but if we use deliberate cursing words to attack people, either openly or behind closed doors, we will be judged severely (Matthew 7:2).

Words of cursing come from the evil one but the Lord will bless His children who are being cursed (Psalm 109:28) as they call upon Him (Isaiah 54:17).

Read Isaiah 54 which is full of beautiful words of God!

*v17: No weapon that is formed against you will prosper;
And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will
condemn.*

*This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,
And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD*



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