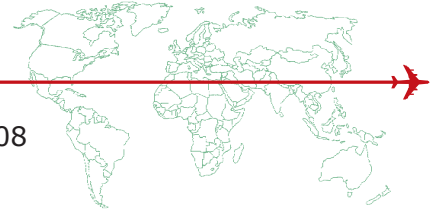




Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



May 22, 2008

Speak the Word of God.

After Jesus was baptized by John, the Holy Spirit came down on Him. He was filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Father thundered out of heaven, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased". Immediately, Jesus was led by that Spirit into the wilderness to face the devil himself.

How did Jesus deal with Satan? He used the highest, purest, and most powerful weapon of spiritual warfare: He proclaimed the written Word of God. "It is written...", Jesus said to Satan, each time he was tempted. He just quoted the Bible to the devil.

Spiritual victory can be won most effectively by verbalizing in faith the words of the Scripture, as those words are brought into your mind by the Holy Spirit.

You can say these words of God, shout them, whisper them, or sing them. The Word of God is more powerful than a sharp two edged sword! In reality, it is a sword, God's Sword, and this sword is meant to be in your mouth! In the first chapter of Revelation Jesus appeared to John in his glorified heavenly state. His face was shining like the sun, and from his mouth came a sharp sword.

You are part of the body of Christ, and your mouth is His mouth. From your mouth should come the same sharp sword that proceeds out of the mouth of Jesus Christ the head of the church.

That sharp sword came out of the mouth of Jesus in the wilderness when he faced the devil. He defeated the devil by proclaiming the Word of God.

You notice, of course, that Satan also spoke the Scripture to Jesus. But the Scripture, in the mouth of Satan, is not the Word of God. It's the word of Satan. He tried to use the Scripture to manipulate Jesus. Though the devil knows the Bible, and can probably quote it from memory forwards and backwards, it is not his Book. He fights against that Book and against the Author of that Book. At times he will even use the Book against you. He may quote Scripture to condemn you. That is not the Word of God to you. God has given his Word to you to build you up, not to tear you down.

Satan has no right to the authority of God's written Word -- neither His promises, His commands, or any other part of the Word. You do have that right, however, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, and He is your Lord and Savior. When you

speak the Word of God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, it is God's Word put into action. When you speak that Word, the power of that Word and the authority of that Word are released against the powers of darkness.

You not only are to proclaim the Word of God against the powers of darkness, but you are to proclaim the Word of God, sing the Word of God, and shout or whisper the Word of God over every circumstance of life. God's spoken Word will bring forth life where there is no life! It will be like water on dry ground! It will cause walls to crumble! It will make prison doors open! It will cause that which seems dead to rise again!

It will even do these very things right inside of you! When you speak the Word of God to yourself, life will rise inside of you! You will water the dry ground of your own heart! Walls of impossibility will crumble in your mind! The prison in which your soul seems locked, will open by the power of your spoken word!

A little song testifies to the power of this Word of God:

*His Word is working mightily in me,
His Word is working mightily in me.
No matter what the circumstances,
What I feel or see,
His Word is working mightily in me!"*

Isaiah 55:10,11 declares the power of this Word: "For as the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My Word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

You need to treat your mouth as if it is God's mouth. Your mouth is God's mouth! Your tongue needs to be totally set apart for God's use! As a member of the body of Christ, when you open your mouth, your mouth is to be the mouth of Jesus Christ. You are to say what Jesus would say. You are to say what He did say in the Bible. You are to say what He is giving you to say through the inspiration of His Spirit. You are to say what He would say if He were speaking while present in bodily form. Actually, He is present in bodily

form when you are speaking. He is inside of you!
"Christ in you, the hope of glory..." Col. 1: 27

Isaiah had an encounter with God concerning His mouth, as recorded in Isaiah 6:1-7:

"In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

"Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

"And one called out to another and said, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory'.

"And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of Him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

"Then I said, 'Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.'

"Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

"He touched my mouth with it and said, 'Behold this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.'"

When Isaiah saw the glory of God, he felt ruined because of how he had used his mouth. The seraphim took a burning coal from the altar and touched the mouth of Isaiah and took away the sin and iniquity of his mouth.

May God do the same for our mouths, for your mouth and for the mouths of the body of Christ. May our mouths become cleansed to be the mouth of Jesus, our tongue become His tongue, and our words His words.

Proverbs 18:21 says, *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue..."*

Your tongue is more powerful than you realize. Have you been speaking words that bring death, or words that bring life? Your mouth is meant to speak words that bring hope, grace, peace, love, and faith into your own life, and into the life of those around you. Your tongue was not given to you to tear yourself down or tear down the life of others. Use your tongue to bring forth life!

God created the universe through the power of His words. He spoke the worlds into existence. Life came forth. Light came forth. Creation came forth through the power of his Word. This Word of God at creation we know to be Jesus, the second person of the Godhead, the son of God. John 1:1-3 tells us this: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and apart from him and nothing came into being that has come into being."* That Word became flesh.

This Jesus is now your life. He is the living Word of God inside of you. He is Christ in you, the hope of glory. God has great hope for his glory to be revealed through your life. One of the ways for his glory to shine out of you is for His glorious Word to come out of your mouth.

Jesus inside of you is a like well of water springing up from your spirit to bring life to you circumstances and to those around you. That living water is released through His Words coming out of your mouth.

Let your heart, your mind, and your mouth all work together as a river full of the living water of the Word of God. Keep your heart full of the Word by reading your Bible daily, and by meditating continually on the wonderful promises and instructions of that Word. Then God's Word will flow out of your mouth as a refreshing stream in every circumstance. You will be able to speak life: a word of wisdom, a word of understanding, a word of patience, a word of faith, a word of hope, and a word of love.

The effect of the Word of God coming into any circumstance is described in Isaiah 40:4,5:

"Every valley shall be lifted and filled up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked and uneven shall be made straight and level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory and majesty and splendor of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Our travel plans...

By God's grace, John will be in Ukraine in July, back home in August, and then both of us return to Ukraine in September. We are planning to then go from Ukraine directly to Indonesia to be there during in October. We'll describe these plans in our next letter.

Our new name, World Harvest Network, does not indicate a change of direction. We needed a name which more plainly states what we are already doing. The vision continues to be working with others to take the gospel to the nations. The name does indicate, however, that we must prepare to do more, in more places. That is what we are doing this spring: *getting ready for more!*

Thank you...

We are deeply appreciative of your concern for us and for the ministry to which God has called us. Thank you for praying, and for giving. All of our resources come from the gifts of people like yourself, and every month requires miracles!

May you experience the overwhelming wonder of the presence of the Father, made possible for you through the blood of Jesus, and brought to you by the power of the Holy Spirit!

With love,

John and Jackie Matthews