

COMMUNITY CONTENDER

I TIMOTHY 2:15

Edition 3

May 2016

THE POWER OF WORDS

Words possess great power! Wars have been waged and peace has been brokered, all through the power of words. Hopes have been bolstered and dreams have been shattered by the power of a few words. Families have begun and ended all because of the power of a few words.

Proverbs 6:2 - *Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.*

Matthew 12:36 - *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

John 12:48 - *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

The text in Acts 24:24-27 speaks of a man who experienced, first hand, the power of a few words. Felix, the Roman governor of Judea, is listening to Paul the Apostle preach concerning the Christian faith. As Paul preaches the Gospel, **v. 24**, Felix is moved, **v. 25**, by the words he hears; key words being "Righteousness," "Temperance," and "Judgment." The Bible tells us that Paul "**reasoned**" with Felix and his wife Drusilla. This word means, **to mingle thought with thought; to discuss; to preach**. Paul used his time with the governor to declare unto him the truths of the Gospel. As Paul preached, two of the areas of his sermon served as a direct confrontation to the life of Felix. When Paul preached about righteousness, he was dealing with their **character**; he was talking about who they were before God. When he speaks of temperance (self-control), he is talking about their **conduct**, or how they live before men.

Paul preached about the fact that God is righteous and hates sin - **Romans 1:18, *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness. What man calls an accident, God calls an abomination. What man calls a blunder, God calls blindness. What man calls chance, God calls a choice. What man calls a disease, God calls a defect. What man calls error, God calls enmity. Man calls sin a trifle, God calls it a tragedy. Man says it is nothing but weakness, God says it is wickedness. The truth is this: God is holy, man is unholy. God is pure, man is impure. God is sinless, man is sinful. God is righteous, man is unrighteous.***

One of the tragedies of these modern times is that few people are confronted by the Word of God concerning their lifestyles. God is not pleased with the way things are going in this world! He is angered by the sin that abounds on every hand. Society tries to sanitize sin to make them feel better about what they are doing. **Lying has become a credibility gap; adultery has become an affair, stealing has become embezzlement, drunkenness has become a disease, sodomy has become an alternative lifestyle, the murderous practice of abortion has become a woman's right to choose, fornication has become flirtation**, etc. But, God still has one word that sums it all up: SIN! Let us not gloss it over any longer! Sin is sin and one day, all that sin will catch up with the sinner, **Numbers 32:23; Galatians 6:9**.

Contending for the Faith,

Pastor Enoch Kumar

DISREGARDING PARENTAL COUNSEL

Judges 14:1-6

Samson, the strongest man of the Bible, had a weakness with his eyes. He lived his life for what pleased him well. He sought to fulfill the desires of his heart, all the while disregarding the counsel of his parents. God had placed him in Mr. and Mrs. Manoah's home. Samson disrespected the authority of his parents when he would not listen to their wishes. He seemed to be quick and snappy in his speech, perhaps even demanding when he ordered his parents to get this young woman which he had seen.

Samson should have recognized that he was placed underneath the authority of his parents' home. He should have willingly submitted to his parents' wishes. Young people should not be demanding or disrespectful towards their parents. They rather should value the input, counsel, and wisdom of their parents. There should be a willingness to submit themselves to the wishes



of their parents. God has given them the authority in the home, and has placed the young person underneath their watch care. From the young person's perspective, they are required to obey and honor.

Samson was downright wrong when he would not listen to his father's counsel. The counsel was meant for his protection and profit. The counsel was not meant to cramp his style, place him in a strait jacket, and hinder his fun. The parents recognized the danger of intermarrying and mingling with the world. They desired to protect their young son's life. They had lived long enough that they had seen by experience the sorrow that conforming to the world brings. It was foolish for Samson to not yield to his parents' wisdom and stop asserting himself.

How sad to see Samson exhibit an independent spirit as he began to grow. Many young people struggle with this independent spirit as they begin to mature. God naturally desires that they learn to make their own decisions, but He desires that they honor their parents in the making of their decisions. Just because a young person is growing older, it does not give them permission to assert themselves in their own path! Oh for teenagers to remain humble in their relationships with their parents.

Samson had traveled down to Timnath, entering the vineyards, which was a dangerous place for him to be. He was a chosen Nazarite to the Lord and was to have nothing to do with the fruit of the vine. How foolish to visit a place where temptation would be on his left and right. Should we say that there was a lack of discernment? Many young people make the same mistakes with sin in their own lives. They may struggle with sight, music, dress, wrong friendships, and yet they place themselves in the "vineyard" next to the temptation. Samson ends up killing a lion while here, but an interesting little phrase is there, "but he told not his father or his mother what he had done." He seemed to be secretive with his parents. It is very dangerous for a young person to keep secrets from his parents. In fact, it can be the start of his downfall. Young people must practice honesty and openness with their parents. This is another form of honor. How many young people have had to return to their parents after moving out and ask forgiveness for deceitful decisions that took place while they still lived at home?

Young person, you only have a few short years while you live at home in which to honor your parents. Please submit yourself to them and love them. Never keep secrets! Your parents ought to be your best friends.

Consider the lessons:

1. Value the God given authority of your parents in your home.
2. Recognize the responsibility that comes with being underneath authority. God expects you to be obedient, honoring to your parents.
3. Willingly seek and heed counsel from your parents when making any decisions in your life.
4. Recognize the tendency to assert yourself with an independent spirit and submit yourself to God and your parents.
5. Practice making every decision under the watchful eye of your parents. Don't go undercover and make decisions without their knowledge.

MEMORY CORNER:

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

Philippians 2:15

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Micah 6:8

"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"

Psalms 85:6

"The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him."

Proverbs 20:7

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

Megan Stoddard-1

Tim Delp-2

Wayne and Dana Harley-3

Bob Carmichael-3

Ruth Rowland-6

Ken Herr-11

Dan and Angela Wargo-13

Jose and Lisette Narvaez-15

Lisette Narvaez-16

Sherry Meredith-17

Maribeth Spangenberg-20

KC and Megan Stoddard-20

Bob Comfort-21

Joanna Love-22

Lisa Love-23

Katelyn Smith-23

Kiara McGonigal-26

Steve Spangenberg-27

Dana and Faith Palermo-28

Dorothy Comfort-29

Richard* and Connie Buck-29

Rick Hendricks-30

A CALL FOR CHRISTIANS TO PRAY AND FAST

Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders *and* all the inhabitants of the land *into* the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD, Joel 1:14

The rights of Christians are being attacked. It is crucial that Christians come together in prayer and fasting for God's will to be done and for Christians to stand strong in the coming days.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14

We must first ask God to show us what sin He wants us to confess and forsake. Only then will we receive His promise of answered prayer, forgiveness, and healing.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20

We might not be in the same physical place but we can bow together in the same spiritual place. We are of one accord! Each Monday may Christians set aside time to pray and fast. Monday is an easy day to remember because it is the first day after Sunday. Then as God reminds us to pray during the week, we can continue. Fasting can be partial or full. The time during the fast should be used to pray and beg for God's will to be done.

And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. Mark 9:29

Concerning the agony of the cross, Jesus said that this must needs be to fulfill scripture. (Matthew 26:53, 54). Concerning end times Jesus said, "...be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass..." Matthew 24:6. God does not ask us to do more than He did himself. (Hebrews 12:4) Great revivals came in the past when Christians were persecuted. In the past, the Christians stood strong in the power of the Holy Spirit. We must also!

Please help get the message out across America by sharing this letter with fellow Christians in e-mails, networking, and other ways in which God leads you. Join in the every Monday fast!

COWBOY WISDOM

Never approach a bull from the front, a horse from the rear, or a fool from any direction

Keep skunks, bankers, and lawyers at a distance

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump

Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled

The easiest way to eat crow is while it's still warm. The colder it gets, the harder it is to swallow

Meanness don't jes' happen overnight

Don't corner something that would normally run from you

It doesn't take a very big person to carry a grudge

It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back

A bulldog can whip a skunk, but it ain't worth it

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty

Don't sell your mule to buy a plough

What this country needs is dirtier fingernails and cleaner minds

The best sermons are lived **and** preached

Most of the stuff people worry about is never gonna happen anyway

You can't tell how good a man or a watermelon is 'til they get thumped

Never ask a barber if you need a haircut

Don't judge folks by their relatives

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer

Even a blind squirrel finds a nut once in a while

Don't interfere with somthin' that ain't botherin' you none

Don't name a pig you plan to eat

If you are riding a high horse, there ain't no way to get down off it gracefully

Shovels n' guns are tools, no better or worse than any other tool. They is as good or bad as the man using it

Sometimes you get and sometimes you get got

Don't fix it if it ain't broke

Generally, you ain't learnin' nothing when your mouth's a-jawin'

Always drink upstream from the herd

Don't worry about bitin' off more'n you can chew; your mouth is probably a whole lot bigger'n you think

If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there with ya

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Forgive immediately

FROM THE KITCHEN OF LORI MANN: SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN

6 boneless chicken breasts

1 bottle of French dressing (16 oz)

1 envelope of onion soup mix

1/2 to 3/4 cup of apricot or peach jam

In a 9x13 pan place chicken.

Mix remainder in a bowl and pour over chicken.

Bake for 45 minutes @350 degrees uncovered.

Serve with rice, green beans, and potato rolls.

Enjoy

*The first three completed correctly and shown to Pastor David will receive a treat!

Missionary Matching

Write the letter corresponding to the Missionary's last name by their Place of Service and correct first names

A. Zemeski	_____ Idaho	_____ Joshua	_____ Jenny
B. Whitener	_____ Ireland	_____ Charles	_____ Tina
C. Town	_____ Chile	_____ Jonathan	_____ Lori
D. Schildknecht	_____ Nebraska	_____ Evan	_____ Rebekah
E. Rettig	_____ New Jersey	_____ Jerry	_____ Kathi
F. Rains	_____ India	_____ Jason	_____ Christina
G. Prince	_____ Pennsylvania	_____ Enoch	_____ Kathryn
H. Noecker	_____ Japan	_____ Jon	_____ Kelly
I. McKinley	_____ Thailand	_____ Nathan	_____ Linda
J. Maietta	_____ Kenya	_____ Steve	_____ Jodie
K. Lawrence	_____ Utah	_____ Dennis	_____ Erika
L. Kumar	_____ Italy	_____ Gene	_____ Nirumpama
M. Kinoshita	_____ Taiwan	_____ Frank	_____ Debbie
N. Kenney	_____ Dominican Republic	_____ Stephen	_____ Amanda
O. Gruber	_____ Scotland	_____ James	_____ Christie
P. Gruber	_____ Nepal	_____ Paul	_____ Tami
Q. Gorman	_____ Australia	_____ David	_____ Sandy
R. Francis	_____ Virginia	_____ Bob	_____ Yolanda
S. Eckels	_____ Ireland	_____ Joshua	_____ Jennie
T. Cloud	_____ Uruguay	_____ Allen	_____ Emilie
U. Burbidge	_____ Czech Republic	_____ Zach	_____ Ruth
V. Boots	_____ Lebanon	_____ Donald	_____ Melissa
W. Akers	_____ Mongolia	_____ Chris	_____ Joanna

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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Ladies mark you calendar for
the GraceFull Ladies Conference
with Mrs. Jenny Deatrck
Saturday, May 21

WHERE GOD IS GLORIFIED, HIS WORD IS MAGNIFIED, AND HIS PEOPLE EDIFIED