



UPCOMING DATES ...

Young Families Big B'Day Bash – 20 August

Water Baptism – 27 August

Father's Day – 3 September

Westcare Fundraiser – 7 September

GNI – 13 October

Kids "Blast" (Kindy to Yr 6) – Sunday nights

Christian Character Course – Register online

Imagine Recovery – Every Thursday Night

2017 – CG Notes #20

STRONGER - Say God's Word

Title: Say God's Word – Part 2

Key Scripture:

Luke 6:45 (NIV)

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

The Power of negative speech

What do you feel when you hear words like this?

“I give up!” “I quit!”

“What’s the use?”

“This is hopeless!”

“Nothing will ever change.”

“I’ll never be any good at this.”

The whole atmosphere changes for the worst when words such as these are spoken, particularly when accompanied by strong emotions. You may feel your heart begin to sink. You lose sight of anything better – hope is gone. Every reason to keep going and fight on just shuts down inside of you. How quickly our words can hurl us, and anyone around us into a downward spiral!

But for us as followers of Christ, there is something better. We can, by the Holy Spirit be in control of our words. We can speak hope into the most hopeless of situations.

Consider our key verse. Christian – what have you filled your heart with? There are many sources of information available to us these days. Is there a treasure of God’s Word inside of you? If there is then there is a resource – a treasure that you can bring out and speak out of your mouth to whatever situation is before you.

The Power of faith-filled speech

Romans 10:8-9 (NASB)

*But what does it say? “The word is near you, **in your mouth and in your heart**” – that is the word of faith which we are preaching. ⁹That if you **confess with your mouth** Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

If you have received Jesus as your Saviour and your Lord, then you most probably have already made the most important declaration of faith that there is: Jesus is Lord, Jesus is *my* Lord.

In the verses from Romans above, Paul quoted from Deuteronomy 30:14. Deuteronomy is a reiteration of the law. Moses reminded them that they *could obey* the command of God because the Word of God was near to them – in their hearts and in their mouths.

Back then, all Scripture was orally transmitted and memorised. The only written Scripture was on two very large stone tablets, written by the finger of God! God entrusted His Word to His people. It was to go into their hearts so that it could come out of their mouths and it would follow, they could carry it out.

If God could entrust His people with such a responsibility back then, how much more possible and powerful is it for us today who have the power of His Holy Spirit working in our lives?

What is a “confession”?

A confession is a declaration, an affirmation, a statement of what you believe to be true.

For the believer, this is much more than a positive affirmation, so popular today. We are to make a **Bible based, faith-filled affirmation** of truth.

A positive affirmation is not what we are after. A positive affirmation is human-focussed and seeks to draw on personal strength and power. Here are some examples:

“I am self-reliant, creative and persistent in whatever I do.”

“I am energetic and enthusiastic. Confidence is my nature.”

Discuss ..

- What type of “positive affirmations” have you heard and might be popular today?
- To what extent are these helpful?
- In what ways are these limited?

Positive affirmations are OK, but they have their limits. They start and end with self. As believers we are partakers of something so much more powerful – we are in Christ and He is in us!

Our focus is to be:

- Not so much on what I can do but what God can do and what He wants to do through me.
- Our focus is with faith in God and what His Word has to say about the situation.
- Our focus is about the reliability of His promises.
- Our focus is about His great power and ability.
- Our focus is about His faithfulness and goodness.
- It’s all about the Lord and not so much about me!

Example of a Bible-based, faith-filled confession

Let's say that in my morning quiet time, this verse of Scripture stood out to me:

Psalm 13:5 (AMP)

But I have trusted, leaned on, and been confident in Your mercy and loving-kindness; my heart shall rejoice and be in high spirits in Your salvation.

The words “high spirits” really spoke to my heart so I decide to begin my confession with that thought:

Confession:

“Lord, I face this day in high spirits. What a wonderful day is ahead of me! I rejoice in You because of Your great salvation. I trust in You with all my heart. I lean upon You, Lord and am confident in your mercy and loving-kindness.”

Do sense and see the difference between a positive affirmation and one that is full of faith and based on the Word of God. A positive affirmation leaves me flat – its all up to me and I already know I am not equal to the situation. But with the Lord – all things are possible!

Discuss and practice ..

For the remainder of the time, practice making a Bible-based, faith-filled confession. You might select a favourite verse of Scripture, something you read recently or simply open the Word and choose a verse to launch out with.

It might be helpful if some in the group share an area of life where they feel challenged and others recall Scripture that will speak to this. From these Scriptures, create a faith confession.

Several, if not all, in the group contribute.

Speak God's Word over your lives. Be blessed in this!