

THE INTEGRITY OF OUR WORDS

A few years ago, I was asked to minister during a school chapel on the subject of integrity. As I sat down at my desk to gather my thoughts, Holy Spirit started to flood me with scriptures and revelations... My spirit was going faster than my hand but it came out as a powerful word that has been a blessing to many.

Proverb 18: 21 says that life and death are in the power of the tongue. We can overcome our problems, change our situation with our words according to Marc 11: 23 and Romans 4: 17, but why do some who try to exercise their authority in Christ or confess the Word do not see their situation change. The word of God in their mouth seems to produce no results and they end up frustrated, coming to the conclusion that God did not honor His Word.

The Holy Spirit led me to James 1: 26. "*He that does not bridle his tongue deceives his heart and his religion is vain.*" The word "VAIN" in Greek means without power and force, that produces no results, without success.

When God speaks, His word is powerful and always produces results. Hebrew 1: 3 says that *God upholds all things by the Word of His power.* The universe is held together by His word because His power is His word.

You see God has exalted His Word above His Name... when He says something, He does it, He always watches over his word to perform it (Psa 138: 2; Numb. 23:19; Jer.1:12). The word is powerful because of the integrity of the One who spoke it... No integrity... No Power.

Therefore, If my words are without power, I must ask myself: "am I a person of integrity? Is my word important to me? Marc 11: 23 says that in order to exercise authority we must believe in our own words... *that what we say will be done.* When I promise to do anything, do I do it? Do I watch over my word to perform it?

Not so long ago, giving our word was like signing a contract; honor, influence & reputation were tied to our word. We see a prime example of this in the bible and the consequences for someone breaking their word. In Joshua 9 Israel made a covenant with the nation of Gibeon and gave them their word that they would not attack them, and even though Gibeon had lied to Israel and was wrong, Israel had to honor their word. But later on Saul, king of Israel in his zeal, destroyed the nation of Gibeon. The result was that Israel as a nation had lost its authority and endured 3 years of defeat and famine.

2Sam 21:1 Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, "It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites. As a leader, he broke Israel's word, and the nation suffered the consequences.

In the same way today the devil has convinced us that our words are not important, and without consequences. Most people speak lightly, give promises they do not keep, lying & exaggeration are now normal in our culture. What most Christians do not know is that when their word loses all integrity, it loses all power and authority. Jesus said, "*let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'* For whatever is more than these is from the evil one." Matt 5:37

You see in the Kingdom of God, we cannot lie, exaggerate, break our word on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and expect the devil to move at our word on Thursday. Like God we must develop the same integrity, and consistently watch over our words to do them, even if it costs us.

Ps 15:4 who will dwell in tent, he who swears to his own hurt, does not change

Num 30:2 If a man vows a vow...or swears an oath to bind his soul with a bond, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that comes out of his mouth.

We must learn to bridle our tongue so that our religion might be with power and produce good results, so that like Him we might speak to the mountains -the problems the devil sends to us, command them to move and they will have to obey us. After all Jesus has called us to do the same work that He did and even greater works John 14:12 ♦