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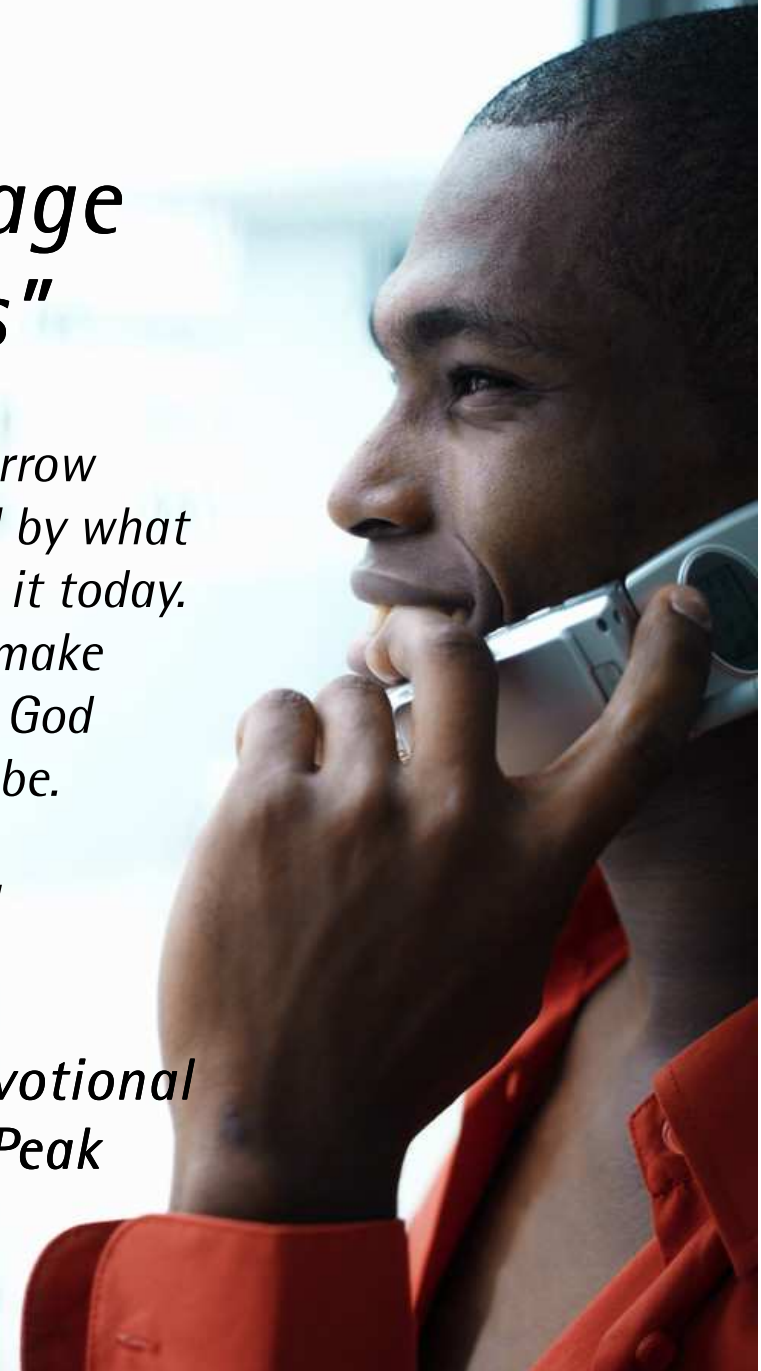
The "It's not Luck" Series

Volume one:

"Language matters"

*Your life tomorrow
can be shaped by what
you say about it today.
Learn how to make
your life what God
intended it to be.
It's not luck -
I guarantee it!*

*A 30 day devotional
by Stephen Peak*



Introduction

"Language Matters" is the first volume in the devotional series "It's Not Luck". You might think that these are strange titles for a series of Christian devotions – something written to help us focus daily on God! Well the title for the series "It's Not Luck" came from an experience I had recently when sharing my life story with a group of Christians. I was recounting the fact that in the past 25 years I had not had a single day off sick and a lady in the gathering said **"Well that's lucky!"**

I'm writing this devotional to let you know, remind you, or at least encourage you that; of a certainty **IT'S NOT LUCK!**

Well, if it's not luck, what is it? Can it be distilled into a few simple principles, and can any believer put these principles into practice? The good news is: **YES!**

This first volume, "Language Matters", deals with one of the most important of these "simple principles" but one of the most neglected i.e. your language. "What do you mean? I don't swear!" I hear you say!?! Well I hope not, but that's not what I'm talking about! As you go through this devotional I hope you will see how our language – what we say – shapes our lives, the lives of those closest to us and the lives of those around us.

Your life tomorrow can be shaped by what you say about it today. Learn how to make your life what you want it to be, it's not luck! I guarantee it!

All Scripture references are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible unless stated otherwise.

Stephen Peak

Day one

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make man in our own image, according to our own likeness, let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth".

You often hear "He's just like his Dad" or "She's the image of her mother". It's said when someone looks like one or other of their parents and/or because they act like one of them. Have you ever said to yourself "Oh, I sounded just like my father/mother then"?

Well God is our "Father in Heaven" and we are like Him; we are made in His image – our Abba Father, our Dad!

We know that He is the Creator (Gen 1:1), so we should be "creators". We know how He created; He spoke things into being: "Then God said...and there was" (Gen 1:3), "Then God said....thus God made" (Gen 1:6), "Then God said...and it was so" (Gen 1:9 & 11 & 14-15 & 24), "Then God said.....so God created" (Gen 1:20-21). God created the environment and everything in it by His spoken word.

Right at the very beginning of the Bible God establishes Himself as the Creator. He establishes how He created, and He tells us that He has made us the same! God's words are creative; our words are creative.

We had better watch what we say, and make sure we don't have any "bad language"!!!

The one thought to hold from this today:

Your words have creative power. What kind of environment are you creating by your words?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for creating me in Your image. Please give me revelation today of just how important my words are. I don't want any "bad language" to come out of my mouth but only that which is line with your Word.

Day two

Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the deep. Then God said, "Let there be light" and there was light.

Nothing is too difficult for God and the Bible opens up with this wonderful illustration: as God came to create the heavens and the earth, and looked out at what was there, it was just a mess. A shapeless, empty, dark mess. But the Spirit of God was hovering over the situation. Then God changed the situation by the spoken word He said "Let there be light" and there was light!

We have been made in His image; we can look out over situations and in the power of the Holy Spirit we can speak change into them. It may be a situation in our own lives, the life of a family member, a friend, someone at work or at church. You can look over the situation, meditate over it in the Holy Spirit and speak out to change it.

The light always dispels the darkness. Often when we look at situations we are not sure what needs to be done. By speaking out and commanding light into the situation it will start to take shape, be populated with opportunity and become clear and bright.

Don't let the enemy fool you. You have been made in God's image, and you are called to change this world, to bring in His Kingdom. He has given you the power to do it. Exercise more of that power today.

Fill your mouth with the Word of God today and speak light!

The one thought to hold from this today:

By the Holy Spirit within you and by speaking out His word, you can bring shape and clarity into situations in your life and the lives of others.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you that I have been made in your image, and that your Holy Spirit dwells within me. Thank you that because of this I can speak your word into situations and bring light. Please show me today the situations I should speak over, and exactly what I should say.

Day three

Ezekiel 37:4

Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord'"

If you are anything like me you can't help reading this Scripture without hearing the tune and the words of the old Negro Spiritual song:

*Them bones, them bones, them.....dry bones,
Them bones them bones, them.....dry bones,
Them bones them bones, them.....dry bones,
Now hear the word of the Lord*

It would be no bad thing if this old song keeps going around in your head today because it speaks such a powerful truth; the spoken Word of the Lord brings Life!

Ezekiel had looked at the situation and sized it up, he had talked to God about it and God had talked to him. But the situation would not have changed unless Ezekiel had spoken out- prophesied the word of God! We should do the same thing; we have the Word of God covering every area of our lives – the Bible. Today choose to speak over an area of your life that you would like to see changed; speak out what the Bible says about it – prophecy to them dry bones.

This Scripture lays down a principle that we can change situations by speaking into them. Your life can be tomorrow what you prophesy about it today. If you are a person that says things like "it never works out for me" or "I can never get it right" – you need to know that's bad language. The language of the Bible is "God always leads us in triumph in Christ" (2 Cor2:14) or "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil4:13) – now that's good talking, that kind of talk will change your life for the better!

The one thought to hold from this today:

Your life tomorrow can be what you say about it today.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you that your Word is true. I want every area of my life to line up with your Word. Please show me today the area I should start on and what I should say about it.

Day four

Matthew 21:21

So Jesus answered them and said "Assuredly I say to you, if you do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to this fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea' it will be done."

Jesus had spoken to a fig tree and it had withered. His disciples were amazed at this and we are no different. We live in a physical world and most of the time we seem trapped by the "physical". We would think the only way to get a healthy, well-watered fig tree to wither would be to put some chemical or other substance on it to kill it. We have to free ourselves from the "physical" and make the "jump" to the spiritual! This "jump" happens by revelation and you get revelation by getting the Word of God inside you and choosing to believe it more than the "physical" evidence around you.

Once you get this revelation you realise that the spiritual rules over the physical, not the other way around.

The spiritual world operates by faith and the spoken word: "if you do not doubt" – faith, "if you say" – spoken word, "it will be done".

Many people are trapped by what they see with their physical eyes, the circumstances they find themselves in. You need to see beyond the physical into the spiritual truth and then speak it into the physical realm.

For example, it may be that you do not seem to have the resources you need for a situation, but the Scripture says "my God shall supply all your needs...." (Phil 4:19); so speak to that mountain of lack in your life and command it to go (yes, out loud!). Then continually speak the truth of the Word, the spiritual truth over the situation – i.e. "He is Jehovah Jireh, the Lord my Provider (Gen 22:14 NASB), so all that I need is coming to me"

The one thought to hold from this today:

The spiritual rules over the physical. This happens when you use your faith and speak out God's Word.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you that your Word is true. Please give me the revelation I need to make the jump from the physical to the spiritual in the way I live today.

Day five

Matthew 21:21

So Jesus answered them and said "Assuredly I say to you, if you do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to this fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea' it will be done."

The withered fig tree, although amazing, may have been a relatively small thing. I believe that Jesus went on to talk about mountains because they were the biggest things around. You may be taking on the small things in your life with faith but stumbling over the bigger things. Jesus is encouraging us that nothing is too big for our words to change. It doesn't matter how big something is or how long it has been going on, you can change it, overcome it, by speaking to it in line with the Word of God.

Mountains are so big people live on them, farm them, and take their leisure activities on them. When you are close up to them you can't even see they are mountains – you just know that the going is a bit heavy, and your footing is sometimes difficult! When you approach a mountain that is in the way you usually just go around it. At other times you see a mountain and just sit and admire it. These approaches to the mountain all have parallels in our spiritual lives; many people just live with the mountains in their lives – sure it's hard going but they make the best of it they can. Others just keep going around the mountains in their lives and others just sit back and wonder at them.

The mountains in our lives can take many forms, for example: sickness, debt, relationship problems, anxiety, bad habits, wrong thinking, violent outbursts, jealousy, or laziness. We can live with, go around them, or sit and wonder at them; OR we can face them and speak to them in the name of Jesus and command them to be cast into the sea.

You may have tried dealing with your mountain but nothing happened. You may have given up on it. Square up to it again, look straight at it, see it for what it is, take authority over it in the name of Jesus and speak to it (out loud) and command it out of your life. Don't worry if you feel silly; remember the spiritual rules over the physical! You are putting into effect a spiritual law!

The one thought to hold from this today:

It doesn't matter how big something is or how long it has been going on, you can change it, overcome it, by speaking to it in line with the Word of God.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you that nothing is too big for You to deal with and therefore, in You, nothing is too big for me. Your Word is true, I believe it and will speak it out today.

Day six

Isaiah 55:11

So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

We can use words much too lightly! Just think, what if every word you have spoken, if everything you said bore fruit. Sobering isn't it? Well, to a greater or lesser extent everything you say does bear fruit – some good, some bad.

Let's just think about some very general things we say and the consequences of them: "I feel terrible", "you stupid child", "I wish I were dead", "I wish you would drop dead", "I can't do anything right", "it won't work", "I never have enough", etc., etc. Isn't it true that people have much more of a propensity to the negative confession? Just listen to people today and make a mental note of the number of negative confessions compared to the positive ones. It is impossible to over emphasise how important our words are. They are creative and when we say negative things we can easily create negative outcomes – our word will not return to us void!

If you say "I feel terrible", guess what? You continue to feel terrible! Much better not to speak it out but rather speak out what the Word of God says: "by Jesus stripes I am healed" (1 Peter 2:24) and command your body to line up with the Word of God. Or how about saying to the child (perhaps paraphrasing) "You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you" (Philippians 4:13) or "If you lack wisdom just ask God, He'll give it to you liberally" (James 1:5). Instead of saying you wish you were dead what about: "I will have abundant life because that's what Jesus gives to me" (John 10:10), or "God always leads me in glorious triumph" (2 Corinthians 2:14). Instead of "I never have enough" say "My God supplies all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Think about what the difference would be in your life if you started speaking positively in line with God's word and refused to speak negatively – your life and the lives of those around you would change. Your words would not return to you void!

The one thought to hold from this today:

You can change your life by speaking the positive truth of God's word over it!

Prayer:

Father God, please help me today to speak only your positive truth. Father, I put a guard over my mouth so that no negative word will come out. Please help me and prompt me by your Holy Spirit.

Day seven

Romans 10:9-10

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation".

You have to "confess with your mouth", you have to speak out loud that Jesus is Lord to get saved. The scripture does not say "think in your head" nor was it talking about mouthing something with no sound coming out! Right at the beginning of our salvation and our walk with God, the principle is established of speaking out loud the Word of God to change situations, in this instance the most important change of all, your transformation from darkness to light.

It is a spiritual law. You may not like it, you may not understand it, but you have to do it. The whole course of your life is steered by what you say. James 3:4-5, likens the tongue to the rudder of a ship; the rudder steers the ship, your tongue steers your life.

We may think it's our family background that made our lives the way they are. Or the circumstances we have encountered that have made the situation the way it is, or the experiences we have had or even suffered. Well background, circumstances and experiences will forge your character but your life can be framed by what you have "said" about those things.

Focus your attention and your vocabulary on what the Word says about you. For instance you can speak out the truths from Deuteronomy 28:3-13 that you are blessed wherever you are, you will not lack, you were made to be at the "top and not at the bottom". It is my personal experience and that of many people I know, that when you refuse to speak negatively and refuse to focus on the circumstances, when you refuse to blame anyone else (that's all "bad language") and when you speak out loud what the Word of God says about you – your life begins to line up with the Word! It has to, it's a spiritual law, and it's ours by covenant right.

The one thought to hold from this today:

You started your walk with God by speaking out loud His truth; you carry on and progress the same way!

Prayer:

Father God, thank you that Jesus is Lord and because of that truth my life has completely changed and I am born-again. Thank you that everything you say about me in your Word is true. Please, today, by your Holy Spirit within me, highlight to me the truths I should speak out and help me to gag my mouth from any bad language.

Day eight

Proverbs 18:20

A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; from the produce of his lips he shall be satisfied.

Everything we say is important. When you spoke out that Jesus is Lord, it was vitally important and changed your life for ever. From it you were "satisfied" and your "stomach was filled".

We have a saying derived from this Scripture "You'll have to eat those words!" meaning you will have to deal with the consequences of what you have said. This is usually said when someone has expressed something negative, often in haste, that they will regret. Something might happen, for example at work; it may be for you "the straw that broke the camel's back" a little thing, but you flip "You can keep your job, I'm never setting foot in this place again....." It all happened in a few seconds but the consequences could last weeks, months or even a lifetime.

This of course is an extreme example, but we have all said things that we regret and have had to deal with the consequences. What we don't always appreciate is that our lives are shaped by every word that proceeds from our mouths! All the little moans, criticisms, expressions of doubt, snipes at people, ranting at other drivers, unrighteous complaining; all these are feeding our lives and the lives of those around us and we will deal with the consequences of them. They are all "bad language".

The best way to deal with the consequences is to get some new consequences. How? Learn a new language, "good language", the language of heaven, the "every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matt 4:4) language. The language of thanksgiving instead of moaning; of love instead of criticism; of faith instead of doubt; of blessing instead of sniping; of grace instead of ranting; of mercy instead of complaining. These things will feed our lives and the lives of those around us. The consequences will be fantastic, our stomachs will be filled with good fruit and our lives will be satisfied with good things.

The one thought to hold from this today:

You will deal with the consequences of every word you speak and they can all be good!

Prayer:

Father God, thank you that life with you is so simple, so good; you have given me your Word to show me how to have a fantastic life. By your Holy Spirit, please help me today to line up every word that proceeds from my mouth with every word that proceeds from Yours.

Day nine

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Well, it doesn't come any clearer than that: "death and life are in the power of the tongue"! We can speak words of death – doubt and unbelief; or words of life – hope and faith.

Have you noticed how some Christians' lives go up and down, some lurch from crisis to crisis whilst others just seem to "get by" never seeming to display anything much different to the world and certainly not matching up with what the Word of God says.

Then every now and then you come across a Christian who seems to live on a different plain. Their lives don't go up and down, they don't lurch from crisis to crisis and when they do have a crisis they are able to handle it almost without you noticing. They are not just "getting by" in life but are making progress all the time. You might have thought, or even said: "They're lucky". Well it's not luck! Without exception these Christians will be distinguishable by what they say.

You won't hear them speaking doubt and unbelief, you will hear them speaking hope and faith. Their language won't be focused on the problem; it will be focused on the solution.

In Matthew 13:58 the Scripture says of Jesus: "Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief." Verses 54, 55 and 56 tell us how this unbelief came out of their mouths. Faith comes the same way. Romans 10:17 says "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God". Faith comes by hearing the Word of God: sometimes out of your own mouth into your own ears!

The one thought to hold from this today:

Today you can speak doubt and unbelief = death; or you can speak hope and faith = life. It's your choice!

Prayer:

Father God, thank you that you have given me your Word and in using it, the power to speak life into every situation in my own life and the lives of those around me.

Day ten

Matthew 12:34-35

"You brood of vipers! How can you being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasures of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasures of his heart brings forth evil things"

The key phrase here for us today is this: "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks". We often try and deal with what we say and struggle to say the right things, but as much as we try we end up saying things we shouldn't. This scripture is giving us the answer to this problem: we need to step back and look at what we have in our hearts.

What do you mean, "what I have in my heart"? Perhaps you have heard that phrase "you are what you eat"; meaning at its simplest that if you eat healthily your body will be healthy and if you eat junk food your body will be junk. Well it's just the same with your heart, in your soul. If you feed it with TV, worldly music, selfish thoughts, fleshly desires; if your prime focus is: your job, your family, your car, your holiday, your needs, your desires; if your way of life is to tire yourself out focusing and thinking about these things and the answer to the tiredness is "crashing out in front of the TV". Well, then not to put too fine a point on it: you can be filling your heart with "evil" or "carnal" treasures. Although this is perhaps an extreme caricature, what is really important is that if this is in some way your lifestyle then it is most likely that nearly everything you say will confirm it and perpetuate it and the very things you focus on getting will constantly elude you!

The answer is simple, it's in Matthew 6:33 "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." It's not that God doesn't want you to have all these things; it's just that He doesn't want them to be your focus, your treasure. He wants to be your focus and your treasure. When He is, He will turn your attention first to others. Then the words that come out of your mouth will be good and they will create a fantastic atmosphere of faith all around you.

Oh, and whilst you are focusing on God and on others – all these things will be added unto you!

The one thought to hold from this today:

You can put the right things in your heart today, so the right words come out of your mouth tomorrow.

Prayer:

Father God, with everything I am I want to focus on what you want today and I will feed myself with Your Word and Your thoughts. I want the treasure in my heart to be all about you and not about me.

Day eleven

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God

This passage of scripture from verse 14 to 17 is talking about how people come to know the gospel. It points out that people need to be told: "how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

This doesn't mean that we all have to become full-time "preachers". The word used here means one who heralds, proclaims, or publishes. Every time we speak we are heralding, proclaiming or publishing something; to those around us and to ourselves. Every one of us has been given a responsibility for ourselves, our home, our school or workplace and the wider community in which we live and interact.

Even what we don't speak out can speak to others. I finally got the opportunity to talk to a colleague I had known for sometime about the gospel and he said "I should have guessed you were a Christian, I have never heard you swear".

Everything we say, or in the case above don't say, is important. Even when we are not directly telling somebody about the gospel, our words are either laying a foundation for it or ripping up a foundation. I am sure that you will have met people who have gained respect because "they are always so positive", "they never speak ill of others"; these people are listened to because of the respect they have gained and people will have "faith" in what they say. How much more important when that "faith" is faith in the gospel?

Our own faith is built up or torn down by what we hear coming out of our own mouths. We had to speak out our faith in Christ and need to continue to do so. We need to speak out loud what the Word says about every circumstance to build up our faith. When it looks as though we might fail at something we can speak out "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13) and the truth of the Word will build our faith. Over time, our circumstances will begin to line up with our confession.

The one thought to hold from this today:

Our words are either laying a foundation of faith or ripping it up, we need to speak out what the Word says in every circumstance to build up our faith and touch the lives of those around us.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you so much for your Word. My heart's desire is that every word I speak today would lay a foundation for your gospel in the lives of others and would build my own faith. Thank you for your Holy Spirit to help me in this.

Day twelve

James 3:4-5

Look also at ships; although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

It is hard to believe that huge ships such as oil tankers can be steered by something as proportionally small as their rudder, but we know it is the case and nobody doubts it.

It is equally hard to believe that our lives are steered by something as small as our tongues! But because we can't see it we doubt it. Surely there is something bigger steering our lives?

Franklin D Roosevelt said:

"Men are not prisoners of fate, but only prisoners of their own minds"

Your life is not running a pre-determined course; God has given you free will to choose. Choose to believe in your heart and your mind the Word of God; speak it out and see your life turn into line with it. An oil tanker takes a long time and a lot of space to turn and so the pilot does not want to get off track and have to make large corrections. It can be the same with your life, if you are a long way off track it might take a while to turn things around. The best thing is not to get off track and keep the Word of God in your mouth constantly.

When you think in your mind "I can't do this" let the Word of God come out of your mouth "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13). Instead of "everyone is against me" say "If God is for me who can be against me" (Rom 8:31). Nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37)! He has made you "to be at the top and not the bottom"; "the head and not the tail" (Deut 28:13); "He always leads you in triumph" (2 Cor 2:14). So say so!

The one thought to hold from this today:

Keep your life on track by having the Word of God in your mouth constantly.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you that you have given me Your Word and the tool to apply it to my life – my tongue. From today onwards I will use my tongue like a master pilot to steer my life on the straight course of your Word.

Day thirteen

Romans 10:10

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

You need to speak out the truth of God's Word that you believe in your heart. Speaking them out is a vital aspect of bringing them into being. If you are born-again you belong to Christ, you have handed over your life to God and if you look deep inside yourself you will find that what you really believe is what the Word of God says.

There are times when I have been in circumstances that have caused me to think to "I don't know what I believe, I don't know if I believe this anymore, it doesn't seem to be true, it's not working". In the busyness of life we can live quite a shallow existence and this temptation to doubt has sometimes gone around in my head for a number of days. But getting before God and opening His Word always confirms what I really always believed. The Holy Spirit quietly confirms to your own spirit that the Word is true – and deep down I know it.

It is so important to deal with the temptation to doubt "in your head" and not to speak it out loud. The Scripture tells us in Proverbs 17:27-28

"He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is counted perceptive".

Our words are creative and when we speak out our doubt we create more doubt. That doesn't mean you can't go to a leader within your church or to a single trusted friend and get them to help you. But always take it to God first; always look to the Holy Spirit within you first. Don't create anything you will regret!

Romans 8:16

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,"

The one thought to hold from this today:

If you are born-again then deep inside what you really believe is what the Word of God says.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you for your Holy Spirit within me confirming the truth of your Word in my life. Thank you that I am a believer. I believe you today, and it will show in my life today.

Day fourteen

John 15:7

"If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you"

Whose words abide in you? How do you know? The way to tell whose words abide in you is to look at whose words come out of your mouth. This is particularly true when the pressure is on or when you react quickly, when you haven't had time to think through what you are going to say.

Let's imagine the situation where there is a threat of redundancy in your employment – a pressure situation. What comes out of your mouth? "Oh dear, I don't know what will happen if I'm made redundant. We'll probably have to sell the car and move to a smaller house. How will I ever get another job" etc. etc. – Bad language. Or "My God shall supply all my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19), "The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).

What about the reaction situation? Your spouse, child, parent, colleague, friend does something that really annoys you, and for the umpteenth time at that. Do you get angry and shout? Do you say things you regret? Or are your words seasoned with grace, mercy and compassion?

Why is this so important? Because if we are not abiding (living, remaining permanently) in Jesus and if His Words are not abiding in us, it will hinder our prayers. We are likely to be asking without faith (because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God Rom 10:17) and very likely asking for the wrong things (Jas 4:3).

Maybe you came out of the above "word check" really well – be encouraged! Maybe you didn't – still be encouraged; the remedy is really, really simple. All you need is more of the Word of God. However you did in the check, take every opportunity to fill yourself with the Word of God from now on. Plan it into your life. Most people plan to eat food three times a day; how about planning to feed yourself three times a day from the Word? After all "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matt 4:4)!

The one thought to hold from this today:

You can keep yourself full of Jesus and His Word today and as you do your prayers will be answered.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you for your Word. Thank you that I am privileged with easy access to it. I choose to fill myself with it today and to make sure it's Your words that come out of my mouth.

Day fifteen

Numbers 20:8

"Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give it to them drink to the congregation and their animals"

God told Moses to "speak to the rock before their (the congregation's) eyes". God wanted to demonstrate to all the people of Israel His spiritual principle and law of speaking out loud, in faith, to create something or to change a situation. The spiritual ruling over the physical. However, our senses get in the way, the concept offends our carnal logic and it did here for Moses. Moses struck the rock with his rod and in doing so he disobeyed God; verse 12 tells us:

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, "because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them".

God had previously (Exodus 17:5) told Moses to strike the rock with his rod, but here in Numbers God was moving Moses (and the people) on. However, Moses decided to do it the way he had done it before,- this speaking to the rock was perhaps too much of a stretch for his faith. God could not let it go, He had to establish the principle of doing exactly what we are told and that the word spoken in faith (the spiritual) is much more powerful than the physical.

God wants you to rule your life and your circumstances by the faith filled words you speak. It can be offensive to our intellect but this is a spiritual law and it needs to be understood spiritually. Don't try to carry on doing things the way you have always done them – God is moving you on, and the path of the righteous gets brighter and brighter (Pr 4:18)!

The one thought to hold from this today:

The spiritual rules over the physical by the words you speak.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you for revealing to me your spiritual laws. By your Holy Spirit within me please help me today to grasp the awesome truth of the power of the words I speak.

Day sixteen

Matthew 17:20

So Jesus said to them "Because of your unbelief, for assuredly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed you will say to this mountain 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Jesus is talking here to the disciples about their failure to cast out a demon and in doing so establishes the link between what we say and our faith. What people say will always tell you where they are in terms of their faith. According to Jesus, you only have to have faith the size of a mustard seed – the smallest of all seeds! Perhaps the demon heard the conversation of the disciples prior to their attempt to cast it out and there would certainly have been a lack of conviction in their voice.

It can often happen that our conversation has doubt and unbelief in it, that we are speaking in a way that doesn't line up with the Word of God. We are just going along in our own sweet way and then all of a sudden we are confronted by a situation in our lives or the lives of others that requires the word of faith, a mountain that needs speaking to. We know the words that need to be said but instead of having real power like a rod of steel they just crumble like a breadstick and we walk away saying (even if not out loud) "See, it doesn't work, I knew it wouldn't work"!

Jesus knew exactly what the problem was and in verse 21 He tells them: "However, this kind does not go out but by prayer and fasting". He wasn't talking about some special kind of demon – He was talking about their unbelief!

We can be so lazy about prayer, fasting, and getting into the Word. We somehow kid ourselves it's not necessary and then we wonder why the power of God is not manifest in our lives.

The great news is that we don't actually lack anything! All we have to do is use what we have been given. Romans 12:3 tells us that "God has dealt to each one the measure of faith" – so we all have that. In this country we have the Word of God freely available to us, we can all pray and we can all fast.

The one thought to hold from this today:

When your words connect to the measure of faith you have been given, you can move mountains.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you for the measure of faith you have given me, I cherish it. Today I will build it up in conversation with you and in your Word and I will introduce regular fasting into my life – all so that unbelief has no place in me. Because without faith it is impossible to please you, and I so much want to please you

Day seventeen

Romans 10:6-8

But the righteousness of faith speaks.... 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 preach)

Faith speaks! We speak out what we believe. What we really believe (where our faith is really at) is deep within us, resting in our subconscious – "in our inmost being (Pr 23:16)" and everything we say is seasoned by it. "But what does it say?" What does your mouth and heart say about your faith? You can tell someone's spiritual condition by listening to what they say in unguarded normal conversation and you can tell your own spiritual condition by listening to yourself! In the supermarket, at work, at school or college, with friends.

What does your faith say? Sometimes we need to ask someone else what our faith is saying. Someone we trust and who we recognise as mature in Christ. We are put in a body, not only to care for one another, but to encourage and sharpen one another. When did someone last "sharpen" you in this way?

So, how do we strengthen our faith? This Scripture gives the answer in Vs 8 "That is the word of faith which we preach". Feed your heart on the preached word of God. This is not a substitute for reading and studying it yourself, but God has given us apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers to build us up – we need to listen to what they say as they preach and open the Word to us. We need to consciously and constantly feed our subconscious with the word of faith. Our subconscious in being constantly fed by the world, through advertising, TV, radio, newspapers, non-Christians we interact with etc. etc. Every day, all the time, our senses and our subconscious are bombarded with the world's view; and that is pretty much always "bad language". We have to feed ourselves with God's view, and that doesn't happen with a quick fix on a Sunday.

Why not pop a teaching tape/CD in the player today?

The one thought to hold from this today:

Our faith speaks out of our heart, our subconscious, and we need to constantly feed ourselves with the Word of God. One important way of doing that is to listen to the preached word.

Prayer:

Father, I want my faith to be strong and I want people to know that by the way it speaks; so that they will see you in me and be drawn to you. I thank you for all the preachers and teachers you have given us to build us up. Please help me soak up your Word through them.

Day eighteen

Matthew 8:8

The centurion answered and said "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof. But only speak a word and my servant will be healed."

Yesterday we looked at "faith speaks" and here we have a real example of faith speaking! So much so that in verse 10 Jesus says "Assuredly I say to you, I have not found such faith, not even in Israel!"

This man came humbly, but boldly, before the throne of grace and spoke words of faith. What he said in this short sentence affected not only the life of his servant (who was healed); not only the lives of those around who were listening and whom Jesus subsequently addressed; not only hundreds of people who would have heard the testimony; but hundreds of thousands of people (like you and me) who have read this Scripture, "marvelled (Vs 10)" at this man's faith and have been stirred in faith as a consequence. What he said was so important that generations have meditated on it and been changed by it.

One simple sentence, speaking out the truth of God's Word, speaking words that stirred his own faith and the faith of countless others. Words that caused his life experience to line up with the truth of God's Word. Words that without doubt will have caused his family, other believers, friends, those working for him and onlookers to be touched by the good news of the Gospel.

This wasn't an apostle, a priest, or a full-time minister, but a man with a full-time "secular" job; undoubtedly full of all the same pressures and frustrations of any job today.

The one thought to hold from this today:

One sentence you speak in faith can change not only your life, but the lives of those you love and countless others. You don't have to be in full time ministry to affect hundreds of thousands of people!

Prayer:

Father, by your Holy Spirit, please stir me today to speak the truth of your Word, in faith, over every situation in my life and the lives of those I love and care for.

Day nineteen

Psalm 45:1

My heart is overflowing with a goodly theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer

A writer's pen commits to paper the thoughts and beliefs that are in his/her head. It's the same with our tongue; it is like a pen. It commits to the world the thoughts and beliefs that are in our head and heart. With it we write the story of our life and contribute to the chapters of the lives of others.

You say what you believe and as you hear what you say it serves to confirm what you believe.

The Scripture tells us in Romans 10:17: So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Faith will come by hearing the Word of God out of your own mouth. But the opposite is also true, you could say that "doubt comes by hearing", as you hear yourself speaking doubt it will confirm that doubt in your mind.

Everything we say should be "faith filled", expressing belief in the Word of God. We do not wait for our experience to line up with the Word of God before we speak it out, our experience will line up with the Word of God AS we speak it out. This is not hypocrisy it's the way God is: Romans 4:17:God who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did:" In Genesis 17:5 God called Abram "the father of many nations - Abraham" before he was, then Abram called himself "the father of many nations - Abraham" before he was. Then because Abram started to call himself "the father of many nations - Abraham", other people started to call him that as well. Guess what? Abraham is the father of many nations!

God has called you, saved you, anointed you, spoken blessing over you, and has things for you to achieve. Let your tongue declare this truth in all your communication.

The one thought to hold from this today:

Our tongues are meant to be writing the purposes of God over our own lives and over every life and situation we come into contact with.

Prayer:

Father, you are wonderful and awesome. You have done so much for me and I thank you. My tongue will declare your goodness in all my communications and only faith will come out of my mouth today.

Day twenty

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for those who come to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The spoken word and faith are inseparable. So to please God we must "speak faith"

Sometimes people think that it is "not being real" or that it is "super-spiritual" to always speak positively, that if a situation is bad we should say so. It is certainly true that some people are unreal or super-spiritual, but that does not mean the principle is wrong. I am not suggesting we deny the reality of any situation, but rather that we choose to speak the Word of God over it.

The Bible lays out general principles and all the purposes and promises of God for us and it's our job to get to know them to "diligently seek Him"; we will then know how to speak faith in every situation.

For example; we need to know that He is Jehovah-Jireh "The Lord will provide" (Gen 22:14) and that "my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:19).

We should therefore never speak about lack in this way: "oh dear, I need so and so and I just don't know how I'm going to get through, it's looking pretty grim" – that's bad language!

You could say instead, "I need so and so and my God has promised to supply all my needs; He is Jehovah-Jireh – my provider; I don't know how He will do it and I don't need to, I just know He'll do it and I'm resting in Him".

Now that's faith talking. It isn't "unreal" and it isn't "super-spiritual", but it is faith! And God will reward that faith of the diligent seeker and you will have what you say (Matt 21:21)

The one thought to hold from this today:

You can speak faith in every situation without being "unreal" or "super-spiritual"

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the principles and promises of your Word, I choose to get to diligently seek them out and to speak them out loud, in faith, over every situation in my life and the life of my family – today and every day.

Day twenty one

Psalms 119: 11

Your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you

It is out of our heart that we speak and the writer here identifies that we need to have God's Word in our heart if we are not to sin against Him by speaking out doubt and unbelief.

We recognised yesterday that we must "diligently seek Him". Diligent means – careful and persevering in carrying out tasks or duties. Immediately above diligent in my dictionary is the work "dilettante" which means – a person whose interest in a subject is superficial – a helpful contrast!

The psalmist is no dilettante and neither can we afford to be. The psalmist has diligently sought out the Word of God and hidden it in his heart, effectively made it part of himself.

At the beginning of John's Gospel we read (Jn1:1) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." and in verse 14, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." By diligently hiding the Word of God in our heart we are packing it full of Jesus! You may have said or thought things like "I want to be stronger in faith" or "I want to be closer to Jesus" or "I just want to know Him better" or "I want to hear Him more clearly". Well this is how these things happen – by packing your heart full of the Word, full of Jesus.

We know that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45). So if your heart is packed full of Jesus.....

The one thought to hold from this today:

You can pack your heart full of Jesus by being careful and persevering in packing your heart full of the Word

Prayer:

Father, I treasure your Word and I want my heart full of it so that all my words are seasoned by it. Please help me by your Holy Spirit to find ways that will work for me to hide more of your Word in my heart.

Day twenty two

Acts 3:6

Then Peter said "silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk".

Peter spoke faith-filled, powerful words into this man's life and changed it forever; and not only this man's, but, as the following verses show, also the lives of all those who saw and heard .

Verse 2 tells us that this man had been a cripple all his life and that he had been begging in the same place every day. We don't know how many years this man had been begging at the gate but it would be fair to guess a good number.

He must have been begging at this gate all through Jesus' ministry. Maybe Jesus passed by this man? However, perhaps unlike blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10:47 this man didn't cry out to Jesus.

Perhaps it is also fair to assume that Peter and John must have passed him before as they went up to the temple to pray. He had probably even heard the stories of other cripples being healed.

As he sat looking at the ground and asking for money, without even really looking at the people he was talking to, perhaps he thought he was too unworthy or that the opportunity always passed him by. Perhaps he even thought God wanted him crippled. If so he was about to find out he was wrong! Peter said to him (V4) "Look at us". They got the man's attention with their words and then they said "we don't have any money, but we do have Jesus, be healed in His name". Peter's words cut through all this man's years of disappointment and brought healing to him; then the disciples pulled him to his feet to prove it and get him moving.

The one thought to hold from this today:

It doesn't matter how long someone has been stuck in a situation; it doesn't matter if the "big ministries" have been through town; it doesn't even matter if you have been passing this person by. It is never too late. You can stop, get their attention, and speak words of faith into their life which can change them and those around them forever

Prayer:

Father, please show me today the people I have been "passing by" and give me the words to both get their attention and heal, encourage, or inspire them.

Day twenty three

John 11:43

Now when he had said these things, He cried with a loud voice "Lazarus, come forth".

Have you ever wondered why Jesus "cried with a loud voice"? It wasn't so that Lazarus could hear him – Lazarus was dead! The answer is in the previous verse "but because of the people standing by". They needed to see that the power of God is manifest at the word spoken in faith. Verse 41 also tells us that Jesus had prayed this through "Father, I thank you that you have heard me".

So there is a pattern here for us to follow: firstly, we need to have prayed. Jesus spent a lot of time in prayer. It is a challenge for the modern Christian to spend time in prayer; you only have to talk to people to know that there is a shortage of personal prayer. You only have to look around at the attendance at church prayer meetings to know there is a shortage of corporate prayer. Perhaps there is a key here, a missing link?!?

Having prayed we need to know that we have been heard John 14:14 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it", James 1:6-7 tells us: "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like the wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose he will receive anything from the Lord". Having prayed, believing we have been heard, we need to act on and speak in line with that prayer.

This does not mean we have to have prayed specifically about every situation. In Matthew 17 we read the story of Jesus' disciples failing to cast out a demon – they spoke out and it didn't happen – ever been there? In verse 21 Jesus says "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting". Did He mean when you come across demons like this you have to go away and pray and fast? He didn't. He meant that prayer and fasting should be a lifestyle, and having prayed and fasted (generally) faith would replace unbelief (Vs 20) and they would be in a position of faith to deal with a situation like this.

When we have prayed and speak out in faith our words are powerful, things happen, those around see it and, because they heard our words, they know why it happened and that the Kingdom of God has come close to them

The one thought to hold from this today:

Get prayed up and then speak up!

Prayer:

Father, I commit to you today to develop my prayer life using Jesus as my model.

Day twenty four

Joshua 6:5

"It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the rams horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people will shout with a great shout; then the wall of the City will fall down flat. And the people shall go up, every man straight before him."

What a fantastic story this is! Can you imagine being inside Jericho? I wonder what the people thought? I expect, mixed with some apprehension, that there was a lot of sneering, laughing and general derision aimed at Israel: "Are these people mad, just marching around our city blowing their trumpets; do they think that will get them in here?"When they got to the seventh day, "Ha! They've gone completely barmy now! They're just marching around and around" The shout: "what!?! Now they are shouting at us! What can shouting do? What can words do? Let's go and have supper and leave these madmen to their insanity!! Then, as they walked away from the walls toward their homes, a rumbling noise, a shaking, a crashing – the walls fell down flat and disaster was upon them.

Hallelujah! Sometimes you just have to shout!! The Scripture talks a lot about "the shout of victory" and "the shout of joy" We really do have something to shout about! The victory is ours and the joy of the Lord is our strength.

2 Corinthians 10:4 tells us "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds". We don't use the battering ram or the tank. We take the Word of God, mix it with faith and SHOUT IT OUT! The shout and the word of faith spoken out are much more, infinitely more, immeasurably more, earth shatteringly more powerful than any weapon known to man. This weapon is in your arsenal right now just waiting for you to use it.

The one thought to hold from this today:

You can take a walk around any issues in your life, have a good look at them, and then shout to the Lord with a shout of victory and of praise – the most powerful weapon in the cosmos. Even if other people think you are mad! When those walls come tumbling down they will soon find out you are not!

Prayer:

*Father, you really are someone to shout about. Thank you that you have given me everything I need for life and godliness; that no weapon formed against me can prosper and that You always lead me in triumph in Christ Jesus.
HALLELUJAH! PRAISE YOUR HOLY NAME!!*

Day twenty five

Luke 10:17

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying: "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name".

Jesus had appointed 70 more disciples, commissioned them (Vs 2-12) and sent them out two by two. He had sent them as workers into the harvest field to heal the sick and proclaim the Kingdom of God. Clearly part of healing the sick was to cast out demons and they come back rejoicing that "even the demons are subject to us in your name".

The truth is, everything is subject to us in the name of Jesus: sickness, demons, poverty.....you name it; any "mountain" in your life is subject to you in the name of Jesus, there is such awesome power in that name.

But you can't "think" a demon out of somebody. Have you ever been in a situation, perhaps a Christian meeting, where a demon has shown itself in someone? You can't just think "I command you demon to come out of this person in the name of Jesus"; no, nothing happens until someone speaks those words (or similar) out loud. It doesn't mean they have to be shouted, but they do have to be spoken out loud.

Why? Because you and God are the only ones who know what you are thinking. Somebody who knows you well can have a good guess, or your body language will give someone an idea; but if you want the thoughts in your head to change anything in the world you have to speak them out, and in the speaking the power is released to change the situation.

Satan and his demons are fallen angels. He and they are not God and do not have God's powers and abilities. God knows the thoughts of men – Satan doesn't. Satan and his host can only observe and listen. When you speak in the name of Jesus your words have that awesome power to set the captives free; they have that awesome power to move any mountain. That makes me want to shout anyway!!!

The one thought to hold from this today:

Only you and God know what you are thinking; if you want to change anything on earth you have to speak it out loud.

Prayer:

Father, thank you that you have commissioned me to "go and make disciples of all nations" and that you have given me all the authority and power I need to do it. I recognise that that power is released when I open my mouth. I commit myself afresh today, to use that power in whatever opportunity you give me.

Day twenty six

Hebrews 1:13-14

But to which of His angels has he ever said: "Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Angels are "sent forth to minister" to you! Yes, that's right, if you are a born again Christian – one of those who will "inherit salvation" you have angels sent to "minister" to you. A dictionary definition would render it this way: 'to act as your agent or servant'. Right where you are, right now, you have angels serving you. Incredible thought isn't it?

Psalm 103:20 describes His angels as those "Who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word." When our words line up with His words the angels take notice and 'act as our agents' to bring about what we have said. Notice again that because angels are created beings, they are not on a par with God they do not know our thoughts but rather respond to our words.

When our words line up with God's Word then the angels assigned to us are working to bring about what we have said. But when our words do not line up with God's Word our angels have nothing to act on; they just have to stop and wait for the next word they can act on.

Angels are keen to serve you and bring about God's will in your life as you speak out in line with God's Word. So speak things like: "Though a thousand may fall at my side and ten thousand at my right hand it will not come near my dwelling" (from Psalm 91). Then the angels assigned to you – who excel in strength – armed to the teeth – will be standing guard around your dwelling to make sure what you have said is what happens. But then don't make them all stop for a tea break by saying anything contrary such as "Well it's happened to so and so next door, so maybe it will happen to me". No, repent of any negative confession, recharge the atmosphere with faith and re-commission your Angels with the Word of God

The one thought to hold from this today:

Keep your angels (who excel in strength) busy working on your behalf by keeping all your words in line with God's Word.

Prayer:

Father, please give me revelation today of what it means to me that you have sent angels to minister to me.

Day twenty seven

Proverbs 15:23

A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is

Isn't it great when you know you have said the right thing? It doesn't matter what the "season" or circumstances are; they may have been encouraging words or correcting words. Whichever, you get a warm satisfied feeling when you get it right.

Saying the right thing can be powerful in changing the atmosphere in any gathering of people, whether just one or two or multitudes. I'm sure you will have walked up to a group of friends or colleagues who are having a chat and found some moaning going on and the resultant negative air. Do you join in with the moaning – often complaining about someone, or do you inject something positive and change the atmosphere? These are often just idle words spoken over a cup of coffee and maybe not too important.

Jesus tells us in Matt 12:36: "But I say to you that for every idle word men speak, they will give an account of it in the day of judgement". Ouch!?! We obviously cannot afford "idle words" – bad language! So how do we change? Some of the definitions of "idle" in my dictionary are "lazy, unproductive, unhelpful". So to change, let's not be lazy and just go with the flow, but put some effort in to get a godly tone in the conversation. We can ask ourselves, are these words "unproductive or unhelpful"? If so, how can I work at injecting something productive and helpful? Imagine Jesus just joined the group (because He has!), how would the conversation go then?

This is one of the things people should say about you: "He/she is always positive; you never hear him/her say anything negative about anybody or anything". This is a godly attribute; people are drawn to people like this. They are like a breath of fresh air in a stale world.

Do this and you will find favour with both God and Man.

The one thought to hold from this today:

By working to make sure all your words are productive and helpful you can be like a breath of fresh air in stale world and in so doing be an ambassador of Christ.

Prayer:

Father thank you that your Word is so practical and your precepts so geared to my good. Please prompt me and help me, by your Holy Spirit to leave the sweet scent of Jesus in all my conversation.

Day twenty eight

Colossians 4:5-6

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

This scripture gives us an instruction: "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time". The New Living Translation puts it this way: "Live wisely amongst those who are not Christians, and make the most of every opportunity".

What I particularly like is that it then tells us how to do it: (again from the New Living Translation) "Let your conversation be gracious and effective so that you will have the right answer for everyone".

As Christians, one of the most important responsibilities we have is to win others to Christ. For a lot of Christians this can be scary and a pressure; visions of having to walk up to someone and just start talking to them about Jesus fill their minds. What this Scripture is talking about is a different kind of evangelism, one we can all do without fear or pressure – just make sure that our speech is always full of grace and seasoned with salt, gracious and effective.

When all your conversation is consistently gracious, positive, uncomplaining; when you never speak ill of anyone – people notice. They will know something is different about you; they will like you; they will like being around you; they will see your integrity and trust you; they will want to know why you are the way you are; they will start to ask questions and when they do it is easy to tell them about Jesus.

When you tell them about your relationship with Jesus they will believe you because they will have experienced Him in you through your speech.

A fantastic by-product of this is that you will find favour with people and be promoted in whatever you are doing, at home, at school or college and in the world of work.

The one thought to hold from this today:

You will win people to Christ when your speech is always so full of grace they can see Him in you.

Prayer:

Father please help me by your Holy Spirit to make sure my speech is always seasoned with grace.

Day twenty nine

2 Peter 1:3

...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue

We have been given everything we need for life and godliness. How? Through the knowledge of Him.

This is fantastic, and we know it's true, but it doesn't always feel like it. If you don't feel you have everything you need – get some more "knowledge of Him", get to know Him better. How do you get to know Him better? Through His Word.

Ok, so I know from the Word that, say for example, "perfect love casts out fear" (I John 4:18) and I know that Jesus loves me perfectly but sometimes I still experience fear, or at least anxiety. What do I do then? You have to speak out what you know to release the power to change your situation. You have to speak to that mountain again. So what might you say (out loud, remember)? Well, I might say something like this: "I refuse to have any fear in my life Jesus has said He has left me His peace (John 14:27), He said 'Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid'. I refuse to be afraid in the name of Jesus. The power of God is released as you speak, and fear cannot remain.

You can use this same "approach" for any situation where you do not feel you have everything you need.

It is one of the most important aspects of "knowledge of Him" that we can have: He has given us His Word to speak out loud and release His divine power into our lives. You will often hear Christians talking about wanting to see more of the power of God in their lives – well this is how it's done. We can't be lazy, we can't download it from the internet. We have to put effort into getting "the knowledge of Him" and, once we have it, put the effort into using it by what we speak.

The one thought to hold from this today:

When you don't feel you have everything you need for life and godliness all you really need is more "knowledge of Him". Then use that knowledge to speak what you need into being.

Prayer:

Father thank you that you have given me everything for life and godliness. You said it, I believe it and that settles it. Today I will declare it out of my mouth.

Day thirty

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death

This Scripture is telling us how to overcome the devil. Firstly, we overcome him by being cleansed by the blood of the Lamb; secondly, by telling him so: "the word of our testimony"; and thirdly, by not being afraid to die.

The devil comes against us in all sorts of ways but we can always overcome him.

If we are Christians we are already cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. We have already been made perfect in Christ, past present and future sins have been dealt with. The devil has no rights over us. If you are wilfully in sin then yes, you do give him access, he will mess up your circumstances, prance around roaring like a lion, but he is still already defeated. So don't invite him into your life.

I want to jump to the third clause – not being afraid to die. We can rightly think of this in terms of physical death, but we are more often challenged by a fear to "die to self" – the fear of what others might think. I'm sure you will have heard someone say "when I realised what I said I could have died". Sometimes we don't speak out what we believe because we are afraid of what others might think – this is all about "self" and we are supposed to be "dead to self" (Romans 6:11) "having crucified the flesh" (Galatians 2:20).

This is the sort of "being afraid to die" that can hinder us in defeating the devil – being afraid of what others, Christians and non-Christians, will think when we speak out "testify" the truth of God's word.

Phillipians 1:21

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

The one thought to hold from this today:

Don't allow fear of what others will think to stop you speaking out Gods truth.

Prayer:

Father, I crucify my flesh, my "old self" to live for you today. I want to say whatever You would have me say, to speak out and defeat the devil in my life and in the lives of others.