

## **Verbal Confessions of Faith**

### *Prayer*

This morning I want to talk about a controversial topic. How many people have heard the expression: "Name it and claim it" or "Blab it and grab it"? These phrases are often attributed to prosperity gospel preachers. I really don't like that phrase "prosperity gospel" because God wants you to prosper... its just that his definition of prosper and what the world sees as prosperity can be two very different things.

**This morning I am here to tell you that there is absolute truth in declaring the word of the Lord by faith...**

What do I mean by that?

Well when I am struggling in a situation and I confess what the Lord has said about it, regardless of what I see, what I hear, what I feel or anything else, I declare what the Lord says about it and I verbally come into agreement with God's will in the given situation. There is truth in speaking the Word of God in his name and with his authority to heal the sick, to release those that are oppressed and so on.

Whether we feel it or not by declaring our faith in God, we state our agreement in the promises he has made. We need to recognize that when we do this we build our faith.

This is where some have misconstrued the Word of God. Through lack of understanding of the context, through poor exegesis of the word... There are a myriad of reasons for it, but simply put. We can declare his promises in accordance with HIS will not simply in accordance with our will.

**Jesus God's own Son walked always in the will of the Father.**

As a serious student of the bible, I have learned that I read the Word for what God wants to tell me. What is happening in error, is that instead of considering the scripture holistically (as a whole) many people have an idea that they want to present and so go cherry picking for scriptures that on the surface and taken out of context seem to fit what they want it to say. In short, they have taken a truth out of context and excluded other truths in the word just to make the word seem to validate their point of view.

**Now prosperity gospel...**

It is VITAL that we speak the promises God has given us in context and with the authority of his word. There are so many scriptures about controlling our thoughts and controlling our tongues and being in the will of God that to cover them all here would take many days.

You are a child of the king of kings who has been granted all authority and he has said that even greater things shall you do. So what are you saying? Does God occupy your heart? Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks? What are you declaring everyday? Are you speaking life or murdering others with your words?

### **God wants our positive confession in accordance with his will.**

I said it was vital that we speak the promises of God... let me be absolutely clear here: We declare with our mouths that which God has promised us in accordance with his will. We do not use this truth or a genuine principle of faith as a means to obtain something that we covet or lust after. Covetousness and lust are not part of the will of God.

My friends there is a faith principle and truth here, but it has been twisted into making God a servant for our petty wants instead of recognizing God as sovereign and carrying out his will as we see in the example of our Lord Jesus.

Here is the secret to real power to make a difference...

When we declare with our mouths what is to be done, it must be in accordance with Gods will or... it is nothing more that a vain declaration.

### **Our verbal declarations have power.**

Jesus is our example...

In Mark 11:13,14 & 19-22 CEV We see Jesus cursing a fig tree

*From a distance Jesus saw a fig tree covered with leaves, and he went to see if there were any figs on the tree. But there were not any, because it wasn't the season for figs. So Jesus said to the tree, "Never again will anyone eat fruit from this tree!" The disciples heard him say this*

*That evening, Jesus and the disciples went outside the city. (Matthew 21. 20- 22) As the disciples walked past the fig tree the next morning, they noticed that it was completely dried up, roots and all. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree. Then Peter said, "Teacher, look! The tree you put a curse on has dried up." Jesus told his disciples: Have faith in God.*

So on the surface we see Jesus mad at a tree and he speaks a curse over it and it dies.

Now let's look a wee bit closer... It says it wasn't the season for figs... So why would Jesus expect a tree to bear fruit out of season? Seems a bit unreasonable doesn't it... So if you then study you will find that at that time of the year "Green Figs" are present and indicate that the tree will bear fruit much like many of our fruit trees

have blossoms. Take of the blossoms, no fruit... What Jesus saw was that the tree would not bear fruit nor would it ever bear fruit and he is not a big fan of that which does not bear fruit.

So... Jesus declares it and the tree dies.

Let's look at another example: Let's take a look at the woman with the issue of blood. Let's look at Mark 5:25-34 NKJV

*Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."*

*Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"*

*But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"*

*And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."*

So here we have a woman who has spent all of her money, who was continuously bleeding and in the culture of the day would have been considered unclean. She would not be able to visit or even attend church. But she held a faith in God. She knew that there was healing in his wings.

In Malaki 4:2 we read a prophecy about the sun of righteousness

"For behold, the day is coming,  
Burning like an oven,  
And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble.  
And the day which is coming shall burn them up,"  
Says the Lord of hosts,  
"That will leave them neither root nor branch.  
But to you who fear My name  
The Sun of Righteousness shall arise  
With healing in His wings;  
And you shall go out  
And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

Isn't it interesting that the tassels on the prayer shawls of the Jewish men were called: "Wings"

She reached out and touched the hem of his garment, the wings...

But I digress... Jesus is God incarnate as the Son. Does anyone here wonder why when everyone was crowding around him and his disciples saw may bump into him, why Jesus asked who touched me?

*And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, " Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.*

Some notes here:

- He looked around to see HER in the crowd of people
- She confessed her faith in him to him verbally

Let's take a look next at the example of the Leper in Mark 1:40-45

*Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, " If You are willing, You can make me clean."*

*Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, " I am willing; be cleansed." As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed*

Some notes here:

- The leper came to Jesus in faith
- The leper asked not demanded understanding sovereignty
- The leper professed his faith to the Lord Jesus
- Jesus spoke and the Leper was healed

Let's turn our focus now to Jesus healing a blind an at Bethsaida in Mark 8:22-25 NKJV

*Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything.*

*And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking."  
Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.*

Notes on this one:

- He begged Jesus just to touch him professing his faith in Jesus ability to heal him
- Jesus took him by the hand and led him
- The blind man trusted Jesus to lead him
- This healing occurred in stages

When we contrast this one with John 9:1-11 where the man born blind was told to wash in the pool of Siloam, there are some interesting differences:

*Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, " Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"*

*Jesus answered, " Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

*When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, " Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.*

*Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, " Is not this he who sat and begged?"*

*Some said, " This is he." Others said, " He is like him." He said, " I am he."*

*Therefore they said to him, " How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ' Go to the pool of Siloam and wash. ' So I went and washed, and I received sight.*

- The man born blind was not being punished for his sin or the sin of his parents, which is exactly what the Pharisees taught...
- The Pharisees taught that a man born blind could not be healed as it was a punishment for sin
- Jesus said the works would be revealed in him
- Jesus declared that he was in the will of the Father
- His healing was a testimony
- Jesus gave this man a command "Go to the Pool of Siloam and wash.
- Jesus tested his obedience as a condition of his healing
- Jesus required a response of faith
- The man was blessed for his obedience to Christ

My friends, here is the crux of what I am saying today:

**Positive Verbal Confession is speaking forth that which God has promised in his word in its appropriate context.**

Jesus wants us to have faith in him and to demonstrate it in positive confession.

We have looked at several examples this morning. We have seen that Jesus wants trust, obedience and our confession of faith in him. If you think I am reaching here I think this is a good point for us to turn to Matthew 10:33 for a moment...

*Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

**Confess Defined:**

.ὁ μ ο λ ο γ ἔ ω homologeō;

to assent, covenant, acknowledge:—

con- (pro-) fess, confession is made, give thanks, promise.

confess, profess, promise, give thanks, confession is made, acknowledgeth ;

to say the same thing as another, to agree with, assent to concede not to refuse, to

promise not to deny to confess declare to confess, to admit or declare one's self

guilty of what one is accused of to profess to declare openly, speak out freely to

profess one's self the worshipper of one to praise, celebrate

I will conclude with some other scriptures about our Positive Confession

Proverbs 18:21 NKJV - Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
And those who love it will eat its fruit.

**Our words are powerful for good or for evil.**

Proverbs 12:13 HCSB - An evil man is trapped by his rebellious speech, but a righteous one escapes from trouble.

Ephesians 4:29 - No foul language is to come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.

- So we are to verbally confess Jesus
- We are to guard our tongues
- We are to use our words for Good

James 1:26 - If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

**In conclusion:**

I ask you to turn with me to Genesis chapter 1

How was each aspect of the world created?  
*"And God said..."*

**God created the world with his Words**

Now let's take a peek at **Genesis 1:27**

*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

**We are made in God's image to reflect him and to glorify him**

**Matthew 28:18 - 20**

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

**All authority has been granted to Jesus and he has commanded us to speak to others about him**

**John 14:12-14**

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it*

**When we walk in the will of the Father, Jesus has granted power and authority to his children**

**Your words have powerful potential to create life, to edify, to lift up and tell of the good news of Jesus or your words can destroy.**