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False Teachings in the Church (Part III Word Faith)

"Speak it into existence!"



*.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith
that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV*

False Teachings in the Church - (Part III – Word Faith)

Proverbs 18:21 (KJV) *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”*

Proverbs 13:3 (NIV) *“He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.”*

2 Peter 2:1-3 (NIV) *“¹But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves. ²Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.”*

One Sunday morning while lying in my bed, with some time to kill before getting up to get ready for church, I grabbed the t.v. remote controller and turned to a well-known preaching channel, Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Although TBN and the “Word Network” are known to be saturated with false teachers and preachers, teaching and preaching what the biblically illiterate want to hear instead of what the Bible really teaches, I tuned in anyway. I thought that maybe this one time they would have a solid preacher/teacher on, rightly dividing the word of truth. Needless to say, I was totally wrong!!

The preacher I tuned in to, who’s name I won’t mention, went on and on about the Christian’s ability to “speak things into existence or reality.” Needless to say, he gave no scriptures to support the idea that Christians, with their words, could cause things to become a reality. In fact, there is no example in the New Testament where a Christian speaks things into reality based on their own will and the power of their own words.

The preacher, with his predominately African American congregation, went on to boast about the size of his 20,000 plus members and how he was speaking a 50,000 membership into existence by saying over and over that he had 50,000 members instead of the actual 20,000 plus members he had. He went on to say that the words that come out of a Christian’s mouth will force the spirit world to act on their words and bring to pass whatever they say. Therefore, if he continued to speak a 50,000 membership congregation, the spirit world is forced to deliver because of the power in his words.

The saddest part of it all was the approval this preacher received from his members while he proclaimed to them the idea that he could speak into existence a larger membership. I could hear his members in the background saying, “Amen,” and, “Speak it,” to express their approval. However, what these members missed completely was the underlying message their pastor was preaching. Here’s the underlying message they missed:

- According to their pastor's teaching, the will of the Christian(s) speaking things into existence supersedes the will of God for their lives. In other words, God no longer knows what's best for the Christian; the Christian knows what's best for their own life. This alone should cause the God fearing man or woman to tremble in fear, especially since Jesus, the God-man, gave us such a clear example of how it's never about our will, it's about God's will since he knows what's best for us. Jesus said in Luke 22:42 (NIV) these words, "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*"
- According to their pastor's teaching, God is no longer sovereign since our words can create our own reality apart from God's sovereign will for our lives. In essence, their pastor is saying their words are equal to or above the power of God himself, the most arrogant and blasphemous thing I've ever heard.

Although there are many preachers and teachers proclaiming the "word faith" message, not all teach exactly the same thing. For example, one preacher says, "What do you need? Start creating it. Start speaking about it. Start speaking it into being. Speak to your billfold, say, 'You big thick billfold full of money.' Speak to your checkbook. Say, 'You checkbook, you. You've never been so prosperous since I've owned you. You're jammed full of money.'"

Another preacher trying to explain the power of our words said, "As long as Jesus was talking on the cross, he couldn't die. It was only when he shut his mouth and hung his head in the locks of his shoulder that death could come and take him because he had so much life in his mouth that as long as he was talking, death couldn't get near him." In other words, according to this preacher, Jesus did not stop speaking because he died; he simply died because he stopped speaking words of life.

Still others are just plain ridiculous and they say things like:

- Don't say to people, "You make me sick." If you do, you're speaking sickness into your life.
- Don't say "I'm dying to get home and eat," or you're speaking death over your life.
- Don't say anything negative. For example, if you're driving along and your car stalls, don't say, "I have car trouble," (even though you do). Otherwise, you speak car trouble into your life.

While I could go on and on with the "word faith" teaching, I won't. Instead I shall focus on two of the most common "word faith" phrases I've heard. Consider the following:

1. "Life and death are in the power of your tongue." According to "word faith" preachers, Proverbs 18:21 (KJV), "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue...*", means we must not say words like, "I'm dying to go on vacation," or "I'm sick of my job," since this passage teaches that there is power in our tongue/words.

However, Proverbs 18:21 teaches no such thing. Instead, Solomon in his wisdom is in essence saying to choose your words wisely or there could be consequences, even death for saying the wrong thing to the wrong person at the wrong time.

As a general rule, no one passage of scripture should be used to validate any doctrine or teaching. When the meaning of one particular verse is questionable or hard to understand, other scriptures should interpret that scripture for you. That said, we shall seek Solomon's wisdom on the subject to clarify Proverbs 18:21. In Proverbs 13:3 (NIV), Solomon says, "*He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.*" In Proverbs 18:6 (NIV), Solomon says, "*A fool's lips bring him strife, and his mouth invites a beating.*" (See also Proverbs 10:14)

Finally, I urge the reader to consult standard commentaries along with good study Bibles, this will expose the error taught by "word faith" preachers and teachers that is so prevalent in the Body of Christ.

2. "We call the things that are not as though they were." "Word faith" preachers/teachers lift a portion of Romans 4:17 to teach the Christian is able to, by his/her words, speak things into existence. However, they have missed entirely who it is that "calls things that are not as though they were." In Romans 4:17 (NIV), we read, "*As it is written: 'I have made you a father of many nations.' He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed— **the God** who gives life to the dead and **calls things that are not as though they were.***" So there we have it; it's God who "calls things that are not as though they were," not Christians as "word faith" preachers/teachers tell their followers.

In conclusion, the whole idea of our words having power and Christians being able to "speak things into existence or reality" that we need or want from God goes against clear biblical teaching and examples.

When we desire something from God, we "ask" God for it, we don't speak it into existence. This is exactly what Jesus told his disciples to do in John 14:13 (NIV), where we read, "***You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.***" When we don't receive from God the things we ask, there may be reasons why God says no. Consider the following examples:

- James 4:3 (NIV) "*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives...***" The right motives are important when we ask for things from God who knows our heart.
- 1 John 5:14–15 (NIV) "*¹⁴This is the confidence we have in approaching God: **that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.** ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us— whatever we ask— we know that we have what we asked of him.*"

No Christian wants anything that's not in God's will for them. Many Christians are blaming the devil for their current pain and suffering in their marriage, finances and choice of occupation when it's not the devil at all. The truth is, they in their flesh, got out of God's will for their lives, made a bad decision or choice and now as a result, they are reaping the consequences.

Finally, our words could never contain the power to create our reality. Even if they could, we would be foolish to "speak things" into our lives that we cannot handle, only to shipwreck our faith and walk with the Lord. Never forget the model for prayer Jesus left his disciples and us found in Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV), "⁹*This, then is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, **your will be done...**'*" Sadly, most, if not all "word faith" preachers / teachers tell their followers never to pray to God and end their prayer with "**your will be done.**" It is because the followers of "word faith" preachers and teachers are told what they want to believe that they cling to the errors they are taught. I'm sure that some of those following the "word faith" principles will never see the error they are being taught, even if Jesus himself came and told them. However, the blood is off my hands, I have done my job in exposing the lie that Christians have the ability to speak things into existence or reality.

Yes, we should choose our words wisely; we should think before we talk, but not because our words have creative power. We choose our words carefully to avoid offending our hearers who may, as result of something we said, do something to hurt us physically or otherwise. It is my prayer that going forward, the saints will develop a Berean attitude and apply it to all preaching and teaching they hear. The Berean attitude is found in Acts chapter seventeen, verse eleven. There we read, (NIV), "*Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for **they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.***" If we are to get the false teaching out of the Church, this is the example we need to follow!!!

God Bless,
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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