

A SERIES ON WHAT JESUS BELIEVED AND TAUGHT — AND LIVED

sixth lesson

The Power of “The Word of the Kingdom”

Our new life, from Jesus’ gospel of heaven’s-open- door-now, is one of personal action and interaction. A kingdom is a personal network and process. PERSONS WORK THROUGH WORDS. The kingdom of God, his reign, works by words, and we share in it by using words— just as our share in satan’s government is through the tongue, “a world of iniquity...defiling the whole body...set on fire by hell.” (James 3:6) By words God’s power goes forth to accomplish his will, by words your power goes forth, by speaking with God his power goes forth with ours: “In Jesus name (e.g. Acts 3:6, Acts 3:16 etc) If we are to do kingdom work we must understand how the kingdom works through words.

- I. Creation is by words (Gen 1:3, Gen 1:6, Gen 1:9, Gen 1:11, Gen 1:14, Gen 1:20, Gen 1:24, Gen 1:26; Heb. 11:3; 2 Peter 3:5) and is sustained (Col 1:16-17, Heb. 1:2-3, 2 Peter 3:7) and is ordered by God’s word (Psalm 104, Psalm 119:89-91, Psalm 147:15, Psalm 147:18, Psalm 148:8).
- II. The word of God is, accordingly, substance and power or agency (Deut 8:3-4 <Matt 4:4, Mark 14:22, John 6:57, John 6:63, 1 Tim 4:5>, Ps 107:20, Jer 23:29, Amos 8:11, Luke 4:32, Luke 4:36, Luke 8:11, Acts 6:7, Acts 12:24, Acts 19:20, 2 Tim 2:9, Heb 4:12, Rev 19:13)
- III. The word of God brings the life from above, birth from above. (James 1:18, James 1:22, 1 Peter 1:23) It washes us. (Eph 5:26) Sanctifies us. (John 17:17) All due to its substance and power.
- IV. King Jesus, through whom all things are made (John 1:3, Col 1:16-17), shows his will by spoken power over nature and spirits. (Matt 8:26-27, Matt 17:17-21, Mark 11:14, Mark 11:20-26, Luke 4:35, Luke 4:38-39, Luke 7:7, Luke 7:14, Luke 8:54-55, etc. etc. etc.)
- V. Power and authority (Luke 9:1) given to his pupils (Luke 9:2-6, Luke 10:1-20) to act with the governance of God. Though not, as with Christ, “without measure.” (John 3:34) Enough, however, that his people will do his works and even greater because Jesus’ power is heightened in his present position with the Father. (John 14:12)
- VI. What it is to act “in Jesus’ name.” (Not necessarily to say aloud the words “in Jesus’ name,” but to act in reliance upon his agency to accomplish his glory. (Acts 4:30, Acts 13:9-11, Acts 14:9 etc. But notice Acts 19:13- 16)

- V. The relationship of “speaking” to “praying.” They are essentially the same, and it does not matter how you use them since in both cases you are acting with God.

- VI. Should you individually expect to do all of these kinds of things? No. Though you should not rule any out. You should seek and teach and pray and wait upon every manifestation of kingdom power for the glory of God to be present in the church of your fellowship. Don’t force your faith. Don’t try to make things happen, but seek the faith that comes from God speaking to you. Seek to live before the shining face of the God who speaks to us in love and calls us out to be his co-laborers.(2 Cor 6:1)