



Revelation and Reflection Newsletter
(January 25, 2010)

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

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

Today was one of those moments when I was listening to a sermon and as a Scripture was quoted, one of the words jumped out at me and demanded further scrutiny! It's one of those Holy Spirit revelation moments that, even when they may sound really simple, they can be quite profound in life!

You've probably figured out by now that the verse I am referring to is Proverbs 18:21; however, the word that came through so loudly today is *power*. So, I decided to look it up in Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary.¹ Here is part of what I found:

Power: a *hand* (the *open* one [indicating *power*, *means direction*, etc.])

Now, I want to take a moment and process what I am reading, because I am in a stage of life where I truly need to understand the concept of my confessions in life. As a matter of fact, changing my confessions is a part of my vision for this year. Thus, I find it prudent to truly understand the power that is in my tongue!

Let me begin by acknowledging God taught me long ago what I confess from my mouth changes what I believe in my heart and what I believe in my heart affects what I confess from my mouth. However, there remained a disconnect somewhere between what I knew and what I truly understood. I think that connection occurred today. Even though the knowledge originally came from the Holy Spirit, I can now actually see what He taught me in God's Word! As I continue my journey to grow spiritually, I find it increasingly more important to know what written Word I am standing on when the Holy Spirit gives me revelation knowledge. In those times when I can actually stand on God's written Word AND His revelation knowledge, I find I am able to get through that trial more purposefully. In other words, in addition to having greater clarity and understanding, I am able to make better faith-filled decisions because I know what God is doing in my heart!

So, let us now explore the visual image I see when I look at what *power* means. Since the definition seems to imply an *open hand*, what comes to mind is that what I release from my tongue is being deposited somewhere, for an open hand is one ready to receive something new. This is far more than changing my circumstances by changing what I say, because I know there have been many times I have confessed the Word,

¹ James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D., *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, (Iowa Falls, World Bible Publishers, 1986).

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but not reaped a harvest, leaving me perplexed. I believe the answer to that dilemma is in the rest of the definition: **means direction**. The best way to capture what I see is to share something I have learned via various sermons and other teachings I have received that now makes absolute sense in terms of God's Word:

Power = word in the heart (**positive belief**) + word in the mouth (**positive confession**). Two positives keep you going in a positive direction!

No power = doubt in the heart (**negative belief**) + word in the mouth (**positive confession**). A positive plus a negative changes your course to a negative direction!

Now, if I were better in math, I could probably come up with an equation to express how heart change occurs, but I'm not. So, let me just articulate it for those who can translate word problems into an equation. True heart change occurs when we allow the doubt in our heart to be washed away by the truth in God's Word. The more we confess the truth of God's Word over our lives with the expectation it will be deposited in our hearts to change the direction we are going **INSTEAD** of expecting it to change our circumstance, that Word can then wash away the doubt the devil has placed in us so the faith God has placed in us can rise to the surface! Thank You Holy Spirit for helping me to see what You have revealed within the context of the written Word!

The understanding that what we confess needs to change what we believe in our heart really helps me to better understand the second half of the verse, "and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." In all honesty, because of how the sentence is structured, I can't definitely tell you what the "it" is referring to. But, I can say this. Fruit is produced based on the seeds that are sown. If the words we speak are sowing doubt and unbelief into our heart, we are producing death. However, if the words we speak are sowing faith and God's Word into our heart, we will produce fruit worthy of repentance. In other words, the heart change that occurs in us shows we accept the truth of God's Word, but that is only part of the process. We must then choose to obey God's Word, and trust Him despite what we see in our circumstances!

This revelation, regardless of how simple it may seem, is helping me to focus in on the things of God that will help me to grow spiritually so I can make decisions that bring glory, honor and praise to His name. I pray the same for every soul that reads this! I thank You Father for the truth Your Holy Spirit revealed today by bringing clarity to Your revelation knowledge through Your written Word. I give You all glory, honor, and praise for the change this brings to my heart and for every heart that will receive Your revelation and patiently produce fruit from it. In Jesus' name. Amen!

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