



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 70.0

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Speaking the Words of God

“I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me” (John 8:28b NASB).

Jesus patiently explained that each and every word He spoke came from His Father and not Himself: *“He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure”* (John 3:34), *“for I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”* (John 12:49-50).

We who believe in Jesus and call Him Lord are to imitate Him (Ephesians 5:1-2), and we too have been given God’s commandment as to what to say and what to speak: *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words”* (1 Corinthians 2:12-13).

Have you ever stopped to consider how little of your speech is His Word and how much comes from yourself or other influences? This isn’t just preaching or teaching, this is all speech, and it isn’t just what we speak to others, it is what we tell ourselves as well. I find many of the words I harbor in my heart or speak aloud are my own—words of my own desires or of the world, not of Christ. What does that say about me? What is our testimony if the words we speak are not God’s Words? This is why Jesus asked the Pharisees *“how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the*

heart” (Matthew 12:34b). The Pharisees claimed to be believers in God, but the words they spoke were not the Words of God and they revealed in words the sin they harbored in their hearts. We are to pay attention to what comes from our mouths, for it reveals the condition of our hearts. If people feel our speech is scornful, prideful, worldly, or abusive, we may be revealing these influences from the refuge we have given them in our hearts.

When confronted about our speech or behavior, our first instinct is often to “justify” ourselves. We may use experiences or stories to justify our actions, and as Believers, we may even go as far as stretching and bending the Words of God to “approve” our human thoughts and actions. In this way we serve ourselves instead of others, and we speak for our benefit, not for God’s glory. Peter went as far as to say, *“if anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God”* (1 Peter 4:11a NIV). What a command! Do you speak your thoughts, instead?

This is our Testimony: *“having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, ‘I believed, therefore I spoke,’ we also believe, therefore we also speak”* (2 Corinthians 4:13). Do you speak because you believe in Jesus and His Word or do you speak to justify and serve yourself? Our command: *“just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.”* (1 Thessalonians 13:4). How aware are you of the words you speak (whether in your heart or aloud)? God is aware of all.

In everything, we should imitate Christ and His Apostles who said, *“we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard”* (Acts 4:20). Can you? Let us pray that we are taught by the Holy Spirit to speak the Words of God whenever we speak. Even so, Amen.