



Dear Covenant Disciple of Jesus Christ;

**Words** – what is a word? Is it just a group of random letters that we put together and then we assign a meaning to it? Do the letters themselves have meaning, much less power? Do those letters or words have the same meaning in different languages? How do we mentally process a word, written, signed, or spoken? Changing one letter in a word or the vowel sound (pronunciation) can drastically change its meaning. A word heard out of context, or misheard, can wreak havoc. There are times that a single word can be as powerful as a stick of dynamite. Why are words so important? **Words are containers**, they can contain meanings, pictures, energy, and power. Many times we form a picture in our mind from a single word, like *'dog.'* You may just have thought about your dog, present or past. What if I say *'big dog,'* now that may just eliminated your dog. Let's keep going, what do you see in your mind if I say *'big, bad, ugly, mean, junkyard dog?'* Got the picture, an image in your mind? As these words formed the image in your mind, a single word also can carry meaning – like – *life* or *death*, *marriage* or *divorce*, *war* or *peace*, and *love* or *hate*. Many times we flip words off of our tongue with little to no concern of what they really mean or who they will impact, after all, they are just words. Ever listen to a little child babbling words just to hear themselves speak with no understanding of their meaning, maybe just repeating something they heard (be careful of what you say around children)?

Many times words can mean the difference between life and death. As a commercial pilot for many years, even flying for the airlines as a check-pilot, I learned the importance of the spoken word, both as a pilot and as a flight instructor. When communicating with air traffic control, you are expected to state words (and their meaning) in a specific order. Speaking otherwise added to confusion, misunderstanding, or non-compliance. At one time I had a young copilot that would change the tone of his voice and use abbreviations in an attempt to sound like an older, more experienced pilot, he wasn't and we had words over that issue. Communications between people who do not have the same first language (of like mind) can be deadly. Years ago there was a crash of two Boeing-747s on an island runway because the tower operator shortened his directions using a non-standard slang phrase in his tongue (language) that meant something completely different to the American pilots, and they pulled out on the runway in front of another aircraft taking off, and hundreds were killed in a fiery crash in a moment of time, just because of miscommunication of words.

We speak and hear words [auditory] physically and they do have meaning. However, the words that we speak also have a **spiritual** meaning, power, and influence. All of us, at one time or another, have been spoken to in a demeaning manner. It may have come from our parents, older children, teachers, someone of authority, or a total stranger. The more authority the person has over us, like a parent, teacher, boss, or even our pastor, the deeper the words cut and the longer they linger in our mind, many times until our pass-

ing. On the other hand, **words of encouragement**, kindness, love, and mentoring can shape us into being more than we would have been otherwise on our own. Yelling tears down, soft gentle words build up.

All of that is to say this; **when we speak words the spirit world stops and pays attention**, either good words or bad words. As King Solomon said, **"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof,"** Proverbs 18:21. Step back one verse, **"A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled,"** (18:20). Norman Vincent Peale's book, *"The Power of Positive Thinking"* was originally entitled *"The Power of Positive Confession,"* but the title was changed because he didn't think that people would read about the spoken word, especially a positive word. Since its release, scientists and psychologists have proven that positive words create goodness, happiness, joy, success and negative words work just the opposite. Just yell at your house plants every day and see how long they will live. Keep telling a child that they is **'no good'** and they'll grow up to be **'no good.'**

The Church Body lives in a separate little world at times, and thinks that we are the only ones that are affected by certain principles, like the understanding of the spoken word, and yet, many Christians still don't understand or accept the teaching of spoken words as it relates to the spiritual world. However, the force of the spoken word is recognized by people outside the Church and many of their insights are spot on. [Note: I am in no way supporting, approving, facilitating, or endorsing the teachings of, or theology behind yoga or the Unity church!!! There is only one LORD and only one way to the LORD, and that is through Jesus Christ, the Messiah!!! They are mentioned here only as a point that shows that the world recognizes the power of the spoken word, and so should we!] Some writings by the "yoga" community highlights the 'hidden power' of positive speech (but they relate it to the 'higher conscious' or 'higher self', not the spirit man.) Again, not to promote yoga, but to show their recognition of speech, here are a few of their teaching bullet points: *"meditate on what you speak; the power of optimism; remain steadfastly conscious of your words; always speak positively with intention; pay attention to your words; speak only the truth; do not gossip; surround yourself with positive people; and don't speak out of emotions."*

Another non-mainstream Christian (non-Evangelical) organization (Unity) has some powerful insights into words that are worth throwing in here: **"every word we speak is saturated with energy that will create or destroy; today's words become tomorrow's reality, we are co-creators with God,"** and I love this one, **"our subconscious has no sense of humor,"** meaning, **a demeaning joke has the same spiritual power as if it were spoken in pure earnest.** **"Neither (let) filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks,"** Ephesians 5:4. Notice this verse is connected to, **"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints,"**

(5:3). This puts a whole new emphasis on the idle, non-productive, joking, and dirty communication of the righteous.

Our spirit man is ruled (released) by our spoken words. We hear the words that we speak. Hearing reinforces the power of our speech. If we pray God's Word in faith, our spirit man goes to work to fulfill our spoken words. **God's Words contain enough power in them to make them come to pass.** We release God's power packed words with our mouth and our spirit moves with the Holy Spirit to bring them into reality. *Slight, vain, unproductive, or foolish words, words of jest, words of discouragement, words of discourse, words of condemnation, words of fear, words of gossip, and any negative words* will be acted upon by our spirit man because **he thinks that we are smart enough to only speak that which is good.** Are we? That is the creative power that God only gave to mankind. We were made in His image. No other creation has that **power and authority** to create with spoken words, not even the angels.

Jesus taught on the creative word power, yet few really believe that it applies to us, ***“And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, [Jesus] came, if haply He might find anything thereon: and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. Jesus answered and said unto it, ‘No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever.’ And His disciples heard it ... In the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots ... Peter calling to remembrance saith unto Him, ‘Master, behold, the fig tree which Thou cursedst is withered away.’ Jesus answering saith unto them, ‘Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*** Mark 11:13-14; 21-24.

Years ago, my dear sweet Mother wrote the Gospel Tract, ***“Wanted, Dead, Reward!”*** At the time they were dealing with some problems within their church, all caused by gossiping lying tongues. The tract is very pointed and calls out the evil source of gossip, satan. It is time for the Church to call out the devil, and stop his influence on our tongue and our families. What we should care about is what God thinks about words as recorded in His Word.

### Spiritual Warfare - Control of the Mind

**Spiritual warfare's victory or defeat starts and ends in our mind.**

Every word spoken and every action taken is a result of what we are thinking or what we have been thinking. There is a response to our thoughts that is called a ***“Freudian Slip”*** (an unintentional error regarded as revealing subconscious feelings). This goes to the heart of the Scripture, ***“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart***

***bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things,”*** Matthew 12:34-35. In moments of anger, surprise, or stress, spoken words and/or unpredicted actions will occur, words out of the belly [*words that we think but do not not speak*]. The secret thoughts will show themselves when most unexpected, I know. Years ago I was taken off guard when I heard myself say something that I was not thinking of at the time. It took the LORD to show me the truth of **Matthew 12:34-35** and apply it to my life, my mind, and my tongue. It is a real battle to keep all thoughts under submission to the Holy Spirit. God gives us a guideline to help us battle the wrong, unrighteous thoughts: ***“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things,”*** **Philippians 4:8.** When your heart is filled with the Word of God, His Word **will** prevail in times of trouble, fear, or pressure.

Question? If your conversation were a Circus parade and your words were the cars, floats, bands, and wagons in the parade, would they be the new, shining, convertible carrying the grand marshal, the uplifting music of the marching band, the loud and strong roar of the lions, or the garbage truck at the end of the parade cleaning up after the elephants?

If you are not offended or uncomfortable when someone tells you a dirty joke, makes a gender-religious-or racial slur, then maybe, just maybe, you are closer to the world than to the LORD. If you are into sports, the news, politics, or TV shows more than you are into God's Word, then maybe, just maybe, you have lost your first love for God. Listen to what you say - listen to what you think. God is!

### Printing Supplies

Everyone who has shopped at a retail store in the past 18 months has seen, to one degree or another, empty shelves or low inventory of many items, such as: food, toilet paper, fresh meats, canned goods, even gasoline, and many - many more. There are many reasons (excuses) for these shortages. We are seeing shortages in the printing supply chain. We have taken steps to keep, as much as is possible, an inventory of paper, inks, and other necessary supplies. There are several items that are on backorder from our vendors with no estimate of future deliveries. We may see the shortages go so deep that it changes how, what, and when we print. This letter is shortened from our normal four-page format for that very reason. We may have to change the paper stock or ink of any tracts that you order, please bear with us as these changes will be temporary. We strive to maintain the highest quality of Gospel Tracts sending forth the Word of God in an attractive, eye-catching, and effective manner to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Love - Your Covenant Brother in Jesus,

Phillip L. Buttram



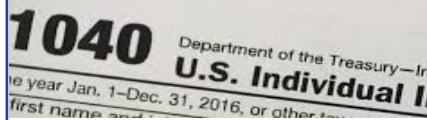
### TAX Credit for 2021

The USPS has announced that ALL November and December First Class mail will be delayed up to six (6) days due to the anticipated Christmas Cards and year-end mailings.

If you need your Tax-deductible Gift/Donation to Gospel Tract Society for the year of 2021, it MUST be postmarked by December 31, 2021. Each year we have Covenant Friends that need their tax deduction for the previous year that are postmarked after December 31.

We are bound by law to process gifts and donations on the year of the USPS postmark. PLEASE, if you want IRS tax credit for 2021, your envelope must be postmarked on or before DECEMBER 31.

Thank-you for your faithfulness to this Gospel Tract publishing ministry.



### Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Tracts and 2022 CALENDARS

Be sure to order your Holiday Gospel Tracts and 2022 Calendars TODAY. The USPS mail delays and paper/ink shortages could cause your order to arrive too late for you to mail out with your Christmas Cards. The 2021 calendars are great handouts for your Bible Study group, prison ministry, Sunday School, and street ministry. They contain our national and Jewish Holidays for the entire year of 2022. Please order your holiday tracts and calendars early. We will be closed for two weeks during the holidays.

***This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be ... despisers of those that are good,*** 2 Timothy 3:1, 5

