

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Words Have Power

Overview: Words are a powerful force. They can bring healing and help - harm and hurt. The Bible uses "word" over 500 times (translation dependent). It's called the "Word" of God. It is one of the names of Jesus. We often use the phrase "You have my word." There is energy that comes with using the right words at the right time in the right way. Sometimes a lot can be said in a simple word. We will explore that and other concepts in this week's session.

God At Work In My Life: Peace in the midst of the noise we live in.

Segment Questions:

- If a teacher, your boss or an authority figure said, "May I have a word with you?", what image does it paint in your mind? Has it happened recently in some similar way?
- In what way does Hebrews 4:12 produce a similar image for you? How is the image different?
- What has been something big that you recently have been very focused on? What helped you stay focused? What causes you to lose focus?
- In what way does 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 speak to this idea of staying focused?

Action Questions:

- The most popular "Word" in the Bible is "Lord" (more than 5000 times). Now read John 1:1-5. Okay, connect the dots. What does this say to you about the level of importance the Lord needs to be in our lives?
- Now tie in Psalm 119:105. How does the Bible fit in?

The Link: We are called to follow the Lord, God's word guides us and we need to stay focused. If we ask God to give us a "Word for the Year" it becomes a handle to let God help us keep a focus that is based on what He wants us to do in and through us.

- In what ways do you think a "Word for the Year" would help you? Or, be honest, do you feel it is more of a gimmick that you tried once that was not effective.
- If you have already come up with your word for the year, would you share it and tell how you arrived at that word?

Personal Prayer: Lord, you promise to light our path. We want to hear you speak to us. Would you simplify my life by giving me a word I can use as a reminder of your work in my life this coming year. Then keep it before me, so I don't forget. Use the connection to others as a practical reminder of what you said to me and them. United us together to make each other sharper. Amen.

Introduction

This topic of “Words Have Power” brings a mix of reactions. For some it may be a hard topic. You may have had a childhood or marriage filled with hard words directed at you and it brings back difficult memories. Others of you make your living with words – you are a good communicator and you understand the right use of words. You know how to “sell” life insurance, teach or write. For others, the idea of “Words Have Power” takes you to Scripture. We are holding God’s “Word” in our hand – what a privilege and dangerous responsibility. And all humans are comforted when someone touches you with their words.

No matter what images come to mind, there is no questioning the phrase “Words Have Power.” It is all around us. Advertising, sermons, legal documents... Isn’t that what the impeachment trial is about? Trying to understand the real meaning – and power – behind the use of words. We could spend a lot of time sharing our word stories. But I want to bring it home in a real practical way.

A couple of weeks ago I introduced you to this idea of “A Word for the Year.” What is to be accomplished by it? Let me illustrate it this way.

I was at the YMCA Monday morning and I was surprised at how empty it seemed. It so fits the pattern where January sees a spike in memberships, but they rapidly drop off. The Quora website shared this, which seems consistent with my observation yesterday.

By percentage, 12% of new gym memberships come in January. But it actually represents about a 33-50% increase in volume because of members who restart their routine. The second week of January is almost always the busiest of the year. But by the 2nd week of February, numbers are back to normal.

It is this mindset that forms the foundation of my push for having a “Word for the Year.” One of the most helpful things to keep me going to the Y is the fact that my wife drops me off on her way to Force Fitness. I am there, without a car, for an hour. That helps keep me focused and on task. The “Word for the Year” idea is the same thing. It is best explained by hearing how it was said on the podcast from Ransomed Heart Ministries.

(Listen to 3-Minute Podcast Segment).

My challenge with the “Word for the Year” is to help accomplish some of this “kind remembering” that they talk about. It is just a simple way to help us connect a bit with each other’s lives. So as we spend some time today looking at these Scriptures on this topic, my prayer is that you will grab on to how an idea like this can help you dedicate and focus 2020 towards God doing something in your life.

----- **use these scriptures for the questions** -----

Hebrews 4:12 | For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 | Don’t you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! Don’t you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

John 1:1-5 | In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Psalms 119:105 | Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

Proverbs 27:17 | As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.