



## S-word

Paul teaches us to take unto ourselves "the *sword of the Spirit*, which is *the word of God*" (Eph 6:17)

In the well-known passage on the subject of the Armour of God the Apostle Paul teaches in the Book of Ephesians us that we are to, "take the helmet of salvation, and the *sword* of the Spirit, which is the *word* of God" (Eph 6:17). However, in that specific passage Paul used two fascinating Greek words. (*See the highlighted and italicized words above.*) We must first understand these two profound Greek words if we hope to properly put on the Armour of God!

Notice that specific passage once again, "take the helmet of salvation, and the *sword* (*máchairan*) of the Spirit, which is the *word* (*reéma*) of God" (Eph 6:17). The Roman *máchaira* pictured above right is the primary weapon that conquered the known world during the Roman Empire. The *máchaira* is a simple short 18–21 inch two edged sword.



Roman Soldier (*pictured at right*) used the *máchaira* as his principal weapon of choice. Notice the *máchaira* clipped on the belt upon the soldier's right hip much like a 45 or 9 millimeter might be placed on the right hip of a modern policeman. The Roman Soldier would also generally have clipped on his left hip a small circular shield (*not pictured*). The final element suspended from the belt of the Roman Soldier would be a five-fold decorated shield made of leather cords which obviously protected the soldier's loin region from attendant blows by an enemy during battle.



If you think about it, we have actually been focusing on the Roman Soldier's belt. We should automatically remember that the Apostle Paul described the soldier's belt as follows: "Stand therefore, *having your loins girt about with truth*" (Eph 6:14). The soldier's belt "of Truth" had three major objects hanging upon or attached to it: (1) the sword; (2) the five-fold cords; and (3) the shield. Each of these elements should teach us that since we are to have



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our “*loins girt about with truth*,” and since, “thy word (GK: *logos*) is truth” (John 17:17); therefore, the belt represents the Scripture. It follows that hanging on the

Bible is our shield of faith and the sword of God’s Word; you might also notice how truth is imparted into the Church through the five-fold ministry of God, “he gave some, (1) apostles; and some, (2) prophets; and some, (3) evangelists; and some, (4) pastors and (5) teachers; 12 *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*” (Eph 4:11-12).

But wait a minute; we just said that the belt represents truth. Doesn’t the scripture say that, “thy word is truth” (John 17:17)? If the Bible teaches that the word is, “*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*” (Eph 6:17); and it also teaches that “the *word of God* is quick, and powerful, and *sharper than any twoedged sword*” (Heb 4:12), then there must be a direct relationship between the sword and the belt! What is that relationship? Look at the picture of the *máchaira* once again on page 1. Notice that the sword is sheathed in a casing or scabbard, which remains tied to the soldier’s belt! In other words, the scabbard is made in the image of the sword. These two separate items closely fit in with each other in the same relationship as a glove and hand! They are directly tied to and belong one with the other. The sword of the Spirit is hung on or tied to the loin belt; in other words the belt carries the scabbard, which sheaths the sword!

Jesus is clearly our example. From Him we learn that we must speak the written words of God especially during testing situations; when the devil came to Him He quoted Deut 8:3 as *He said*, “man doth not live by bread only, *but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD!*” We will learn that this means that humans need to be speaking God’s word. Notice satan’s response to the Word of God, “he departed from him” (Luke 4:13). There are Scriptures that clearly identify Jesus with a sword in His mouth, “*out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword*, that with it he should smite the nations” (Rev 19:15). What exactly is the sword that comes out of the mouth of Jesus? Surely He does not look like some of the grotesque images that have been conjured up by some artists. (see picture above)



We are going to learn that God has always put His words into the mouths of His servants, “And thou shalt speak unto him, and *put words in his mouth*: and *I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth*, and will teach you what ye shall do” (Ex 4:15). Obviously God deals with His servants; however, at times He also puts His words into the mouths of the disobedient as he did unto Balaam who said, “*the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak*” (Num 22:38).

Jesus claimed that His words ultimately originated with the Father, “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? *the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works*” (John 14:10). Moses predicted a special Prophet who would speak with the words of God, “I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and *will put my words in his mouth*;



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*and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him*” (Deut 18:18). Further, God expected that the words spoken by this special Prophet must be listened to and

obeyed, “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever *will not hearken unto my words* which *he shall speak in my name*, I will require it of him” (Deut 18:19). Jesus’ words were obviously very powerful and they had the power and authority of God almighty standing behind them, “For *he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God*: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him” (John 3:34).

The prophet Isaiah describes this special servant sent from the Almighty. He also describes the source of the words in His servant’s mouth, “And *I have put my words in thy mouth*, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people” (Isa 51:16). Jeremiah also wrote about his personal experience with this exact same encounter, “Then the LORD *put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth*” (Jer 1:9).

We Christians are slow; nevertheless, we simply must get a firm hold of the concept that God wants His words to be in our mouths, “As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and *my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed*, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever” (Isa 59:21). We must realize that the word of the Lord is close to us, “But *the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart*, that thou mayest do it” (Deut 30:14).

What should be our attitude toward speaking God’s word? Notice the psalm, “Let *the words of my mouth*, and the meditation of my heart, *be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD*” (Ps 19:14). We should be proud and indeed anxious to speak what God has given to us, “So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word. 43 And *take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth*; for I have hoped in thy judgments” (Ps 119:42-43). His words should be desirable to us, “*How sweet are thy words* unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Ps 119:103).

Jesus prophesied that we would *hear his voice*, “the sheep *hear his voice*: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. 4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for *they know his voice*” (John 10:3-4). We must realize that Jesus is the “word!” We enter through Him; He said, “I am the door of the sheep” (John 10:7). From where does Jesus speak to us today? “See that ye *refuse not him that speaketh . . . him that speaketh from heaven*” (Heb 12:25). Jesus speaks to us today from heaven! We must not refuse Him that speaks! How important is it that we hear Jesus when he speaks to us? Jesus promised, “if any man *hear my voice*, and open the door, I will come in to him” (Rev 3:20). Jesus will come in to us when we hear his voice and open the door; but how does he speak?

The Bible is the written word (*logos*) of God while a (*rhema*) is quickened (*living*: *1 Cor 15:22 says “in Christ shall all be made alive!”*) word or concept from the Bible that is imparted into your spirit. Remember that Paul describes that the sword (*word*) hangs on the belt of truth (*word*). The Bible describes this quickening, “the word of God is *quick*



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(*living*), and powerful, and *sharper than any twoedged sword*” (Heb 4:12). Indeed, “These things saith he which hath *the sharp sword with two edges*” (Rev 2:12).

The screenshot shows a Bible software window for John 12 [KJV]. The main text reads: "48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." A list of verse numbers is on the left, with 4487 highlighted. A window titled "NT:4487 (Strong's)" is open, showing the definition for *rhema*: "(hray'-mah); from NT:4483; an utterance (individually, collectively or specifically); by implication, a matter or topic (especially of narration, command or dispute); with a negative naught whatever:". Another window titled "NT:3056 (Strong's)" is open, showing the definition for *logos*: "(log'-os); from NT:3004; something said (including the thought); by implication a topic (subject of discourse), also reasoning (the mental faculty) or motive; by extension, a computation; specifically (with the article in John) the Divine Expression (i.e. Christ): KJV - account, cause, communication, X concerning, doctrine, fame, X have to do, intent, matter, mouth, preaching, question, reason, + reckon, remove, say (-ing), shew, X speaker, speech, talk, thing, + none of these things move me, tidings, treatise, utterance, word, work." Arrows point from the highlighted verse number 4487 in the text to the two Strong's windows.

We all remember the obscure opening verse of the Apostle John’s gospel, “In the beginning was the *Word*, and the *Word* was with God, and the *Word* was God” (John 1:1). *Logos* is the Greek word that is translated into the English as “Word.” Therefore, Jesus was the word of God. Given that indistinct concept, for how can a God be a word, Jesus one day made a very interesting statement when He said, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my *words*, hath one that judgeth him: the *word* that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). That last passage in the English twice used the term “word;” however, that English term comes from two different Greek words. Even though the Greek words *rhema* and *logos* are similar and both have been rendered into the English Language as “word,” they really are quite distinct one from the other. We all understand what a word (*logos*) is, however, in this Bible Study we are going to discover the real depth of the meaning of the Greek word *rhema*; it certainly does connote much more than merely a word. Now remember that these two distinct and separate words in the Greek are both translated into English as “word.” To help distinguish between the two lets use a sample text from the Book of Acts which once again uses both Greek words in the same verse, “While Peter yet spake these words (*rhema*), the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word (*logos*)” (Acts 10:44).

A *rhema* word tends to be an inspired message or a quickened “word” from God that is used to impress upon us some specific spiritual significance. The *rhema* word penetrates into our innermost being, while the *logos* word tends to be the actual spoken/written text. Both are important when originating from the presence of God!



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Perhaps the context of the last instance in Scripture where the Greek word *rhema* is used gives us the best representation of the actual meaning of that word. Notice the contextual usage in the Book of Revelation, “For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words (rhema) of God shall be fulfilled” (Rev 17:17). Here we find God having put His words into the hearts of ten kings who ultimately give their own kingdoms over to the beast! The Book of Revelation reveals that the Greek word *rhema* conveys the concept of a hearts desire or a special knowingness. Greek *Rhema* are “Words” which convey an actual substance that gets inserted into the hearts of these human kings; further, *rhema* brings God’s will into being. *Rhema* can be an individual utterance from God; however, it can also be something that God speaks into your heart not necessarily through words but by knowledge!

We are going to learn that *rhema* words, which originate with God, are not necessarily literal words from Scripture; nevertheless, just like a sword in a scabbard these words inserted into the hearts of men always agree with the written Scripture! Additionally, we will learn that a spoken word from God becomes a sword that the Christian ought to use while in a spiritual battle! We derive an interesting formula: (S)spoken *rhema* + (WORD) = **SWORD**! One of the most common ways that God speaks to humanity is through *rhema* words!



When you receive a (*rhema*) word from God you begin to know something way down deep in your spirit! You may begin to know some of the following things:

- I am supposed to make peace with someone who has wronged me;
- I am supposed to give something to someone else;
- I am supposed to become a missionary, minister, etc.

We have learned that God speaks; He can speak into a person’s heart in many different fashions including dreams and visions, “And he said, **Hear now my words**: If there be a prophet among you, **I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream**” (Num 12:6). God speaks in many ways; we learn from John the Baptist’s father that when God sends a word it must be obeyed otherwise undesirable consequences are very likely to take place, “And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, **because thou believest not my words**, which shall be fulfilled in their season” (Luke 1:20).

The scripture is full of examples where individuals received various *rhema* words from God, “And Peter remembered the **word** of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice” (Matt 26:75) – “And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the **word** that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice” (Mark 14:72). Jesus often spoke a “word” to his disciples which was designed to quicken their hearts at a later time, “For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day. 32 But they understood not that **saying (rhema)**, and were afraid to ask him” (Mark 9:31-32).



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Elijah had been eating food brought to him by ravens and he had been drinking water from a brook. However, the brook dried up and the ravens stopped bringing food! This brings us to the fresh word (*rhema*) that Elijah received from God, “Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, ***I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee***” (1 Kings 17:9). God told Elijah that He had commanded a widow woman to ensure that he had provisions. Now for just a moment, let’s give ourselves license and climb into the thoughts of Elijah; he must have thought to himself when he heard this word from God, “Great! There is a rich widow in the gentile land of Zarephath near the sea. Her husband must have left her a great sea merchant’s fortune; she is going to take good care of me! It’s no more raven meat for me.”

Well, what did Elijah find when he reached Zarephath, “And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die” (1 Kings 17:10-12). It is clear what Elijah found in Zarephath, he come across an impoverished, depressed, suicidal yet God-selected widow! Elijah remembered God’s word, “***I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee***”

But, how exactly did Elijah respond to this widow? He gave her a command and a word, “Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, ***The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth***” (1 Kings 17:13-14). Elijah did two things, (1) he gave the woman an order to first make a “little cake” and bring it to Elijah (*he was sharing his anointing or his promise from God with the widow*); (2) Next he gave the widow a (*rhema*) word that neither the barrel of meal nor the cruse of oil would fail until the rain came from heaven! If the woman would have clutched her bag and not given to the prophet then she would not have qualified for her next level!

Jesus’ mother received a *rhema* during her conception, “For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word (*rhema*). And the angel departed from her” (Luke 1:37-38).

Shepherds in the field received *rhema* from God, “it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing (*rhema*) which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying (*rhema*) which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things (*rhema*), and ***pondered them in her heart***” (Luke 2:15-19). Notice what Mary did with all these things that happened.



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I have experienced several *rhema* words during my lifetime. Let me share with you some of those most memorable occasions:

- I had been reading the book “Angels, Angels, Angels” by Billy Graham while traveling on an airplane to a business conference in Kansas City. I was going through a divorce and it had been a particularly stressful period during in my life. I read where God sends angels in various ways to visit and help humanity during their time of need. There were spectacular visitations and even some apparitions. In prayer I asked God to send me some help; I told Him, “It doesn’t need to be something spectacular; a gentle hand on my shoulder will be sufficient.” Charles Plumb was the keynote speaker at the beginning of the conference; he had been a POW during the Vietnam War where he was detained in what came to be known as the “Hanoi Hilton.” His message included the concept that we all need to be a helping hand to others who are in need. He described how during his period of imprisonment he often thought about a particularly down period in his life previous to becoming a POW. He explained how the last second basketball shot was given to him and he had the opportunity to win the state championship; however, he missed the shot and lost the game. He described how he sat there sulking in the locker room until everybody had left. Finally, the coach came in and gently put his hand on his shoulder and gave him a word of encouragement; he described how that act of kindness meant a lot to him. Since I had just prayed my prayer the evening before, I listened quite carefully as he described the coaches gentle hand on his shoulder.

At the conclusion of Charles Plumb’s interesting session he said, “I know that I was specifically sent here to help somebody today; I don’t know who you are. I am not anything spectacular, I hope I have just been a gentle hand on your shoulder.”

- While I worked at the school district there was a particularly aggressive individual that disagreed with me on practically everything. This person caused me a great deal of difficulty on the job and I had actually become quite offended to the point where we would not speak. One night the Lord awakened me with the knowing down deep in my heart that I needed to apologize to that person! I was actually quite taken back. After all, the Lord knew that this person was the source of all of the difficulty; nevertheless, He wanted me to be the one to apologize. Reluctantly I did apologize. Not long thereafter, the Lord released me from that job and I retired.
- Biblically, fifty means Jubilee, “ye shall hallow *the fiftieth year*, and proclaim *liberty* throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family” (Lev 25:10). Obviously, the jubilee is a time of great rejoicing in the new found freedom and returning to their land! Let me tell you what happened to me when I turned fifty years of age and the few years to follow: I somehow was able to retire from work; in and around that same period I married a woman named Librada (*which means liberty*). I moved to a new home that itself was a miracle in my life. Just this last summer when my wife changed schools she received two job offers. I have always carefully examined names especially during the decision-making process; Librada received two job offers; the names of the schools were, “Liberty” and “Freed!”



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*Rhema* words are powerful; indeed, the Bible teaches that they will protect our destiny! Noah is an example, “being warned of God (*through a rhema word*) of things *not seen*

as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house” (Heb 11:7). Noah obviously went on to save the human family!

Even though Joseph was thrown into a pit by his brothers and later he was falsely accused of adultery and cast into prison he always remembered the time when God spoken to him, “Joseph dreamed a dream” (Gen 37:5). He somehow believed that one day he would end up ruling over his brethren. Joseph tenaciously hung on to his dream until, “Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: 40 ***Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled:*** only in the throne will I be greater than thou” (Gen 41:39-40). One day during famine Joseph’s family came to him, “Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and ***Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.*** 7 And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them” (Gen 42:6-7). According to his amazing dream years earlier, he ended up having his brethren bow down before just as he had seen in the dream.

Let’s observe a specific example in the life of Jesus when He clearly heard a *rhema* “word” from God immediately after his baptism, “Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo ***a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son,*** in whom I am well pleased” (Matt 3:16-17). Let’s recognize how this voice from heaven was a “word” from God sown in His heart. Jesus actually received His “promise” from God! What do you think happened next? That’s right, Jesus was tested regarding the exact “word” that had been sown by God, “***Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*** 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hundred. 3 And when ***the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God***” (Matt 4:1-3). The spirit led Jesus into the wilderness that he would experience a “word test!”

Notice the skeptical undertone that satan interleaved in his question, “***If thou be the Son of God!***” This was a “word test” based upon what forty days earlier had been sown in His heart! Satan cast doubt on Jesus’ divinity! He was urged to cast himself down in a test of God to see if He actually meant what He said concerning His offspring. Satan tried to confuse Jesus through the word of God, “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone” (Ps 91:11-12). But notice Jesus’ retort, “And Jesus answering said unto him, ***It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God***” (Luke 4:12). Jesus believed that God had given him the word that He was indeed the Son of God. The powerful thing is that for the first time in history a son of man used the Word of God against the devil and came out victorious! This is a powerful concept that remains valid for us today! Jesus used the written word of God as a powerful tool to win a spiritual battle against satan!

Throughout our Christian walk we will receive *rhema* words and much less frequently actual audible words from God. God gives us a “promise” or a “word,” and we have discovered that it is a phenomenon that is never lost; God’s promise “*word*” always retains



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its power, “For *the gifts and calling of God are without repentance*” (Rom 11:29). No matter what we do, we never lose a “promise” from God, “There *remaineth*

*therefore a rest* (a “promise” as Heb 4:1 describes) to the people of God” (Heb 4:9).

Anytime that we receive a powerful “word” from God, soon thereafter we will encounter a “word tests.” What do I mean a “word test?” The essence of the “word test” is that satan poses a question such as, “Do you really believe that you actually are what you claim to be?” The “word test” is usually couched in terms that magnify our unsatisfactory performance or frail abilities rather than upon the things that God’s word has said!

When the “word test” comes upon us we will usually enter into a figurative wilderness (*an undesirable situation or a setting where our abilities seem woefully inadequate!*) I recently experienced a “word test;” several months earlier I experienced a supernatural healing from God that manifest through a simple belief in Jesus’ sacrifice; I suppose I may have gotten a little self confident in my Biblical knowledge rather than the simple confidence in Jesus! Then suddenly an unexpected manifestation of a different medical condition came along and cast me into a spiritual wilderness as I experienced a “word test!” All I could do was cling to God’s promise of healing! I simply kept the word of God on my lips and ignored all circumstances. Shortly thereafter I experienced a complete healing of “graves” disease!

Jesus taught about “word tests!” Notice in the parable that Jesus declared as the key to all parables, “And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and *how then will ye know all parables? 14 The sower soweth the word*” (Mark 4:13-14). From Mark’s account we get more illumination, “Now the parable is this: *The seed is the word of God*” (Luke 8:11). The point is that Jesus regularly sows His “word” in us. We should get the concept that God continually plants seed or His “word” in our hearts and He returns regularly to inspect the seed’s progress. God fully expects that the very next thing after a seed is planted is that satan will test the “word,” “Satan cometh immediately, and *taketh away the word* that was sown in their hearts” (Mark 4:15). Just like birds seeking seed, satan is looking for a “word” to steal from what has been sown in our hearts, “the thief cometh not, but for to steal” (John 10:10). So how do we protect the word sown in our hearts? Whenever we get a *rhema* word from God we must put corresponding *logos* words from the Bible into our mouth to protect the *rhema*! Whenever we receive a *rhema* word from God our flesh immediately jumps in and supplies many reasons why we should not do it!!!

- Don’t make peace it’s that other person’s place to apologize;
- Don’t give that money; you surely will need it later;
- God can’t heal something as awful as cancer!

How powerful are man’s words to God, “For *the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride*: and for cursing and lying which they speak” (Ps 59:12). God does not enjoy the words of a fool, “*Speak not in the ears of a fool*: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words” (Prov 23:9). Notice what Solomon wrote, “Whoso *keepeth his mouth and his tongue* keepeth his soul from troubles” (Prov 21:23). The human tongue is a powerful instrument, “Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. 4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. 5 *Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things*” (James 3:3-7)



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So just how powerful is the human tongue? Notice Jesus’ answer to this very question, “And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but

leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. 20 And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! 21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also ***if ye shall say*** (*obviously with your mouth*) ***unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done***” (Matt 21:19-21).

The word of God in our mouth is a powerful weapon for both offense and defense against the attacks of the enemy. The secret is that we must match the words that God gives us with corresponding Biblical verses that we will speak during spiritual battle.

Do you realize that we can cause our own hearts to become sensitive to whatever we want! Do you want to hear *Rhema* words send from God? Through God you can become sensitive to these gifts! All you need to do is ask in belief; commit yourself to God completely and do not leave any possible alternative. When you do these things God will prepare our hearts for us! God actually performs all of the necessary work Himself!

There is an impression of Kris and Jason’s hand in a cement retainer wall on Dundee Lane. The concrete was set over twenty years ago! Just like that impression of my children’s hands was set years ago so we can prepare our hearts and set them on whatever we choose! Today is the choice day for you! When you seek the Lord with all of your heart he will hear and gladly give you what you ask! You can set your heart like concrete.

Do you want to have a sensitive heart so you can hear *rhema* words from God? Here is the exact method that we all can follow: (1) Humble yourselves in the sight of God, “LORD, thou hast heard ***the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear***” (Ps 10:17); (2) Ask God for his help to prepare your heart, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matt 7:7); and (3) Expect God to perform his part, “The preparations of the heart in man, and ***the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.***” (Prov 16:1).

We began our Christian walk by faith and by speaking God’s word, “if thou shalt ***confess with thy mouth*** the Lord Jesus, and shalt ***believe in thine heart*** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Rom 10:9). We actually continue our Christian walk by the same faith and by the same speaking of God’s Word, “***The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth***” (Rom 10:8)

Indeed, “the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword!”



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