

# **GOD'S WORD IN OUR MOUTH IS A POWERFUL WEAPON ...**

*By John Gagliardi*



Long before it became a Google hot topic and the subject of several popular books, my wife and I heard German-born evangelist Reinhard Bonnke more than 20 years ago preach on "praying the Bible". The way he put it, and he said God has spoken to him, was that "God's Word in our mouth is just as powerful as God's Word in His own mouth".

Today, there are excellent books (such as *Praying the Bible: The Book of Prayers* by Stacey and Wesley Campbell with a Foreword by Mike Bickle) and articles and even whole websites majoring on the idea that speaking God's Word back to Him is a powerful and effective way of praying. When we heard Reinhard Bonnke all those years ago, it made a major impact on us, and we have continued to pray that way ever since.

God's Word is creative and powerful – by speaking, he created the world and all that is in it (Genesis 1: 3-26). God's Word is "living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4: 12), while "life and death are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18: 21). God's Word always is 100% effective in bringing about His will: "...My Word that goes forth from My mouth ... will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire, and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55: 11).

Jesus also tells us that if we abide in Him, and His Words abide in us, we can ask whatever we wish, and it will be given to us ... that we bear "much fruit" (John 15: 7 and 8) and even that if we have faith in Him, we will do the things He has done, and "even greater things than these" because he has gone to the Father. He then goes on: "And I will do whatever you ask in My Name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in My Name, and I will do it" (John 14: 12-14).

There is clearly a powerful principle here when it comes to prayer – God's Word is powerful and creative, it can abide in us, and we can do "even greater" things than Jesus did. Jesus himself prayed God's Word, when He was in the wilderness and being tempted by the devil (three times in Matthew 4: 1-10) He quotes Scripture to the devil, saying "it is written", and if it good enough for Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our "profession" or the words we speak out (Hebrews 3: 1), it should be good enough for us!

He even prayed God's Word back to the Father in the agony of hanging on the cross. In his prayer in Matthew 27: 46, He quotes from Psalm 22:1, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

God says in Isaiah 59: 21, that His Word, which He has put in our mouth, will not depart from our mouth, and in Proverbs 10: 31, that the mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom. He tells Jeremiah that He has put His words in his mouth (Jeremiah 1: 9) and that His Word is like fire and like a hammer that breaks rocks in pieces (Jeremiah 23: 29).

Joshua, about to take the Promised Land, is told that if he meditates (chews, murmurs, speaks out, repeats) on the Word of God day and night, he will be "prosperous and successful", while David, the man after God's own heart, tells us that if we delight in the Word of God and meditate on it day and night, we will be like a tree planted by streams of water, with leaves that never wither and yielding fruit in season, and prospering in whatever we do.

My wife and I have now, for many years, used this kind of praying as part of our daily prayer regimen. It is not of course the only way to pray – Paul tells us that we should pray "on all occasions with all kinds of prayer" (Ephesians 6: 18). Our prayer life should be varied, and could range from silent meditation "in our closet" to loud public corporate prayer, and from praying in tongues ("in the Spirit"), to deep "groanings that cannot be uttered" and intercessory prayer. Our prayers should be relational (just wanting to fellowship with our Father and getting to know Him more intimately), and also petitional. We should praise Him, thank him, worship Him and – according to His own Word – it is also fine to ask Him for what we need.

Bishop Keith Butler in an article *Keep God's Word in Your mouth*, says this: "Jesus is the High Priest of our profession ... Jesus is the High Priest of the words of our mouth ...

"If your doctor tells you to take pills three times a day, you do it faithfully. Well, there's another kind of 'pill' you ought to take – the 'Gos-pill' – the Good News pill. You take 'Gos-pills' by speaking God's Word out of your mouth. Every day I get up and say what God says about my life and family

"This is not mind over matter,, even though your mind will begin to think the way God says to think when you meditate on the Word of God. The Word of God says in Proverbs 18:21 that death and life are in the power of the tongue. So keep the Word of God on your tongue!"

The mouth of the righteous is a "well" or "fountain" of life, according to Proverbs 10: 11, while Solomon goes on in Proverbs 4: 21 and 22, "My son, pay attention to what I say, listen closely to My Words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to a man's whole body."

Joshua Hawkins in an article *Do You Pray-Read the Bible?* agrees with Jesus that speaking out Scripture is a powerful way to defeat the devil: "We must actually speak the Word back to God and against Satan's attacks on our lives. Many do not speak the Word back to God or against Satan, but only speak it to others.

"The Word of God is powerful ... (and) it's not just powerful when we preach it to others, but it has power to change our own hearts as we speak it back to God ... Pray-reading the Word has caused my desire to pray, read and live righteously to increase dramatically.

"Pray-reading is so simple and powerful that anyone can do it ... you can take any passage and find a way to pray it back to God ... I can guarantee you that if you put this practice in

your life and do it consistently, your desires will change, your hunger for the lord will increase, your heart will be alive like never before. It is His promise to us, as we actually dialogue with Him!"

Jane Baer in *The Secret Power of Speaking God's Word Is Out* believes that the power of God's Word coming out of our mouths is "our adversary's best kept secret from the Body of Christ". She says the devil would "cringe and run in fear" if each day we got up and spoke out the Word of God:

"Take the Words off the pages of the Bible, and speak them out of your mouth, letting the power contained in those Words produce supernatural results ... if the Body of Christ would get up each morning and, instead of saying what things look like around them, they would instead say, 'This is the day the Lord has made for me. I know it is going to be a great day because He made it for me, and He is with me all day, and I will rejoice in it'.

"What if, instead of considering physical ailments and speaking about how badly we feel ... they would say instead, 'Lord Jesus, You bore my sickness, weakness and pains by the stripes laid on Your back. I am healed and made whole, I speak to my body now, in the Name of Jesus Christ, and I command healing and wholeness as promised to me by the Word of God'.

"Think what would happen if, concerning our finances, instead of saying what is in our wallet, we would say, 'I am a child of Father God, and He said He would supply all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now I know, Father, You do not lie to me, and I expect to see my needs supplied and I want to thank You ahead of time'."

There is undoubtedly an immensely powerful principle at work here, and one that not many of us use. We are – every day – whether we are in the home or the church or the marketplace, in the midst of a mighty battle against an implacable and cruel and powerful enemy.

Why would we not use every weapon – offensive and defensive – that we have available to us? Why would we not, every morning, speak out loud the "whole armour of God" outlined in Ephesians 6: 10-18 and in faith put it on, taking up the shield of faith to quench of the fiery darts of the devil, and the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, as our all-powerful and all-defeating attack weapon?

God specifically tells us that the Word of God is our sword – our means of attack against the devil. Why would we not take it up every day, and use it, by speaking it out as Jesus did against the devil in the desert? We too can say, "It is written!"

Join with me now, as you read this, in praying aloud the Word of God, believing as Reinhard Bonnke says, that the Word of God in our mouths is just as powerful as the Word of God in God's own mouth.

***Father God, in Jesus Name and through the power of the holy Spirit, I thank you that you have told me that the plans You have for me are to prosper me and not to harm me, to give me a hope and a future, and that when I call upon You, You will listen, and that when I seek You, You will be found by me (Jeremiah 29: 11-14).***

***Father, I thank you that through Jesus, I can do all things, and that You will supply all my needs according to Your glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4: 13 and 19). I rejoice in You, as you tell me not to be anxious for anything, but instead, in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, to present my requests to You, and that as I do Your peace, which transcends all understanding, will guard my heart and mind (Philippians 4: 4-7).***

***I thank You, Lord that I can come boldly before Your throne of grace, that I may receive mercy and grace to help me in my time of need (Hebrews 4: 16). Thank you that when I need to hear You, I will hear Your voice behind me saying, "this is the way, walk in it" (Isaiah 30: 21 ) and that You teach me what is best for me, and direct me in the way I should go (Isaiah 48: 17). Thank you for being a resting place, and a place of refreshing for me (Isaiah 28: 12).***

***Thank you that as I walk through the darkness of this world, I will see a Great Light (Isaiah 9: 2), and that my light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon me (Isaiah 60: 1). Thank you for Your great favour, and that I will be blessed to be a blessing (Zechariah 8: 13 and Genesis 12: 2), and that no weapon formed against me will prosper (Isaiah 54: 17).***

***Thank You that You care for me, and that even in times of great trouble and confusion, I can cast my anxieties on You (1 Peter 5: 7), and that I can come to You, with all my burdens and weariness, and You will give me rest, and I will find rest for my soul, for Your yoke is easy and Your burden is light (Matthew 11: 28-30).***

***I thank you Lord, that You have put Your Words in my mouth (Jeremiah 1: 9), and that as I meditate on them and speak them out, You will make me prosperous and successful wherever I go and in whatever I do (Joshua 1: 8). Thank you that Your Word will not return to you empty, but will accomplish what You desire, and achieve the purpose for which You sent it. Amen.***