

The Power of Words

by Bill Crews



Words are “signs of ideas,” “vehicles of thoughts.” They can be weighty and important, or light and trivial. They can be clear or confusing, serious or humorous, wise or foolish, careful or careless, pure or corrupt, true or false, helpful or harmful.

Words, whether spoken or written, are heart-indicators. “*Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh*” (**Matthew 12:34**). And the heart is the determinant of the issues of life. “Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life” (**Proverbs 4:23**).

Words are also destiny-deciders. “*And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned*” (**Matthew 12:36-37**). We will all have to face our words again in the judgment.

Men write books and make speeches. Men develop philosophies. Men draft constitutions and pass laws. Men found religions and draw up creeds (or articles of faith, or disciplines, or catechisms). Words, all of these, that influence people and affect their lives and destinies. Think of what the Greek and Roman philosophers did with words. Think of what Napoleon and Hitler did with words. Think of what Confucius and Buddha and Mohammed did with words. Think of what Marx and Lenin did with words. Think of what Darwin and Freud did with words. Think of what Shakespeare did with words.

What would governments, schools, industries, businesses do without words? Ideas and products are sold by words. Dreams and visions become reality by words. Or delusions and fantasies are created by words and dashed by reality. Minds are enslaved by words. People are reached, changed, led, influenced, motivated, incited, aroused, angered, pacified, tempted, corrupted, enlightened, deceived, helped or hurt by words.

And how did God choose to reach and influence, to convict and convert, to mold and save men? **By words, by His words, by true and perfect words.** To Israel of old, God spoke through chosen prophets, but for almost two thousand years now He has spoken to men by His Son, Jesus Christ (**Hebrews 1:1-2**). God has spoken; the result is **the BIBLE** (a book of words) — and the most important division of the Bible is the New Testament of Christ. They are words to live by and words to die by, words for time and eternity, words from a loving Creator needed by His lowly creatures. They are words of eternal life (**John 6:68**). They are the power of God unto the salvation of lost souls (**Romans 1:16-17**).

Think of what Jesus, the Christ, the son of God, has done, does and will continue to do with words. Think of what the gospel of Christ did for those who crucified God’s Son (**Acts 2**), for the deluded followers of Simon the sorcerer and for Simon himself (**Acts 8**), for the misguided, but sincere, Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 9**), for the pagan and morally corrupt Corinthians (**Acts 18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11**). Think, also, of what it can do for you and your children, for your loved ones and friends, for your neighbors and associates, for all men everywhere. Think of what kind of world our world would be if all accountable people lived by the moral principles of the New Testament. Let us be sure we appreciate, treasure, learn, believe, live by and utilize these words as we ought. Do you not think it a great tragedy that the most important words ever given, **the only words** inspired of God through the apostles and prophets of the first century A.D, are not more widely spread and known, are not allowed to benefit mankind and produce their wonderful fruit much more than they have? Christian, what are you doing about this?

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