

Devotionals

Four green circles of varying shades arranged horizontally above the word 'Week'.

Week **FOUR**

Speak the Word



Week 4 - Connect 40



Speak the Word

Matthew 8:8 (KJV)

"The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed."

Word Authority

A centurion, an officer in the Roman army, approaches Jesus seeking help for his servant. Jesus responds, "I will come and heal him" (Matthew 8:7 KJV). The centurion recognizes authority. As a man under authority himself, he understands that Jesus doesn't need to be physically present. He believes that a single word from Jesus is sufficient to produce healing. Despite his position, he doesn't see himself as worthy of having Jesus come under his roof, yet he still believes. Jesus marvels and says, "I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" (verse 10).

Why was Jesus amazed with the centurion's faith? He required no external evidence or proof. He trusted the authority of Jesus' word, that it would deliver just as efficiently as if Jesus were there in person.

How many of us would turn down the opportunity for Jesus to come to our homes? Yet this man understood something powerful: the words of Jesus carry weight and authority. The same ability is available to us. Like the centurion, we can choose to put our confidence and trust in God's Word. Speaking His Word in faith has the power to change everything in our lives.

Words Matter

God's creative power operates through spoken words when they give voice to faith. As we learned during our Connect 21 Prayer and Fasting season, words matter. We live in a word-based world. This earth itself was created by God through faith-filled words (Genesis 1).

Since the fall of Adam, the enemy has worked relentlessly to influence our speech—tempting us to speak fear, failure, defeat, doubt, and death. But God desires that we fill our mouths with His Word. His words carry life, abundance, health, healing, and wholeness. Whichever voice you yield your tongue to will prevail. Scripture reminds us that “death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21). Too often, we blame the enemy for difficult seasons, but we should examine the role our own words have played. The words we speak can either align with God’s truth or contradict it. God has given each of us the power of choice, including the words we speak. It is a powerful gift and a serious responsibility. Choose your words wisely, because words matter.

Heart Full

The spiritual heart of man is a reservoir. You can fill your heart with love, or you can fill it with hate. You can allow offense to remain in your heart toward an individual, or you can allow forgiveness to reign. You may think that because no one can see what’s in your heart, no one knows what you are dealing with. But your words locate you. Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34). Whatever your heart is full of will eventually find its way out of your mouth.

If you suffer from uncontrollable scrolling on social media, if you watch the negative news on a consistent basis, and if you surround yourself with people who talk fear, failure, and defeat, it won’t be long before you are speaking the same things. Protect your heart with all diligence, for out of your heart flow the issues and forces of life (Proverbs 4:23).

Spread the Word

Do you want to give Satan a black eye? Share the revelation and insight you’re receiving from God’s Word with someone. There’s a twofold benefit to this. First, it has the power to bless, encourage, and inspire the person you’re sharing with. Second, it strengthens you because the

more you communicate what you're learning, the more deeply that truth becomes established in your own heart and mind.

We live in a world where many people are desperate to understand their purpose. And we have been entrusted with the most important message ever given: the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are called to be ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). When you share the gospel, you are sharing the Word of God. You are communicating a message that has the power to move someone from spiritual death to spiritual life, from darkness to light, from being lost to being found. There is nothing more powerful, or more fulfilling, than sharing the Word with someone.

Summary

- ◆ **Word Authority** - **Jesus'** words carry weight and authority. When we put His words in our hearts and allow them to come out of our mouths, faith comes and circumstances change. Like the centurion, we can choose to trust the Word. Great faith in the eyes of Jesus is faith in God's Word and its authority.
- ◆ **Words Matter** - Words release authority. God's creative power operates through spoken words. Words give voice to faith and carry creative power. We must take accountability and responsibility for the words that come out of our mouths.
- ◆ **Heart Full** - Whatever fills our hearts will eventually flow out of our mouths. As Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34). Therefore, we must be diligent stewards of our hearts, guarding them from the negativity of this world while intentionally filling them with the truth of God's Word.
- ◆ **Speak the Word** - Speaking the Word means allowing your heart to become so full of God's truth that when challenges arise, you don't let your feelings have the final say; instead, you yield to the Word. It's intentionally speaking the Word in the face of circumstances, situations, and predicaments, trusting it will produce exactly what is said.

Summary

- ◆ **Spread the Word** - When you share the Word, you are communicating a message that has the power to move someone from spiritual death to spiritual life, from darkness to light, from being lost to being found. There is nothing more powerful, or more fulfilling, than sharing the Word with someone.

Scriptures

- ◆ **Genesis 1:3**
Then God said, "Let there be light;" and there was light.
- ◆ **Proverbs 4:23**
Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life.
- ◆ **Matthew 8:8,10**
The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ... When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"
- ◆ **Luke 6:45**
A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.
- ◆ **2 Corinthians 5:18-19**
Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Talk About It

1. When you're under pressure, are you more inclined to speak God's Word over the situation or focus on and speak about the problem? If it's the latter, what practical adjustments can you make to begin aligning your words with God's Word?
2. The heart is like a reservoir, storing what we continually allow in. How does this perspective shape your awareness of the content you take in from news, social media, and other influences? What practical steps can you take to guard your heart from negative or unhealthy input?
3. Sharing the Word with others can be one of the most fulfilling parts of your day. When was the last time you shared your faith with someone? What steps can you take to be more intentional about doing this consistently?

Weekly Action

We carry the most powerful message on the planet: the good news of Jesus Christ. This week, be intentional about sharing your faith with others. Start simple. Take some notecards, a sheet of paper, or your digital device, and write down five Scriptures that speak about salvation. Then step out in faith and share those Scriptures with people in your family, workplace, or school. As you do, watch how the Holy Spirit helps, guides, and gives you confidence in the moment. Share your testimony with your group next meeting.



*Talk About It - **Preschool/Elementary***

1. What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

2. What are some kind or good words you can say to help someone feel better this week?



Talk About It - **Middle and High School**

1. Do you believe your words reveal what's really in your heart? How might your words change if you knew every word you spoke could come to pass?

2. In what situations do you find it hardest to speak God's Word? Share your answer with the group.
