

# Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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## Words

If we are to prevail with God, we must govern our tongue. We must be a guardian of our “words.” It is critical that we be especially judicious about the things we say about God; about Jesus Christ; about our fellow man; and about our selves.

“Why our “words?” you ask; “Is not the heart more telling of our character and integrity?” Most certainly, our heart is far more telling of our true character and integrity. But we are better at reading our “words,” than we are at discerning our own heart. The heart gives birth to our thoughts; our words are simply the off-springs of this conception. Our thoughts become either words or actions; or both. One would be hard pressed to find a person whose thoughts are not a most vivid reflection of the condition of their heart. They may not “own up to it;” but they cannot, in all honesty, deny it.

But how does one govern the heart? Well ... if a person wanted to study a very fine, intricate piece of artwork, the natural inclination would be to bring it into the light. And so it is with the heart. It is in the light of God’s word, that the condition of the heart is discovered. Not just by reading the word, but by applying its truths to the heart, by faith. (More on this

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## The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

### Increase Your Leadership Ability by Learning Something New

Often, when we think of leaders we envision people who “stand out in the crowd.” They seem to know who they are and what they want. They command respect and exhibit a presence that is unmistakable.

We may recognize these behaviors and traits in people we consider to be great leaders. I will submit, however, that there are also other sides of these same leaders that most people don’t get to observe. People who are tenured leaders would tell us that they are also students.

In order to be effective at whatever we choose to undertake, we must continually educate ourselves about the environments that we operate in. This may mean we need to take a class on a particular topic, get a mentor, or do some research. Effective leaders are focused on learning. They know that in order to exude the confidence that is associated with being a solid leader, they must command a certain amount of knowledge regarding the areas they assert themselves to be experts in.

Let’s talk a little about being an “expert.” What exactly does this mean; and is it necessary that a leader be an expert in something? In Webster’s

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New World Dictionary (Second Edition), it says that an expert is someone who is skillful and/or well informed about a particular topic. As believers we are to utilize our areas of influence to show forth the wisdom and truths of God, in our environments. This principle is in line with the scripture that says we are “living epistles” read of all men. When people interact with us, they should experience a sense of joy; be refreshed, empowerment, or some other attribute of the Father. We then are experts at manifesting the principles of God.

We honor God, when we are committed to being knowledgeable about the environments in which we operate (i.e. areas of responsibility, topics of interest, activities we participate in, and/or people we plan to vote for, etc.). Sharp leadership skills are attractive; they wield influence.

I encourage you to make a plan this year to learn something new. When you do this, you are able to offer your new found knowledge to God to use in His master plan. Learn something interesting and watch God use it to bless you and the people around you.

What’s more exciting is that when God uses your knowledge, it brings Him glory. It does so because all knowledge that exists comes from God, therefore, when we seek knowledge, we are actually seeking to know more about God. When we understand this, we are able to glorify God as we increase our knowledge and as we share it with others.



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in the days to come.) For now, let’s consider the importance of governing our words.

Consider the following:

Have you ever gone on a diet program (or knew someone who had); where you were supposed to monitor the number of calories you consumed? And perhaps the first few weeks, at the end of each day (or two) you would say “oh, I haven’t had that much to eat.” But when you went to weigh in, the scales told a quite different story. You were frustrated and exclaimed that surely “diets don’t work; it’s no use; I’ll stop trying; I’m wasting my time!” The facilitator of the program said, “well don’t give up just yet, show me your nutrition journal.” You smiled shyly and said, “I don’t have one.” The facilitator says, “Perhaps, this is the real source of your defeat.” “What ever do you mean by that?” you ask. The facilitator goes on to show, that without a nutrition journal you can only guess at how many calories you actually consumed. By this time, you are furious, “I know what I eat each day! How can I not know how many calories I consume?” you say. The facilitator, says, “Perhaps, but if you want to be successful at this effort, wouldn’t you rather be certain that you’re going about this the right way?” “Of course,” you sigh. The facilitator directs you to carry a nutrition journal and chart everything that goes into your mouth for the next two weeks. You comply. And at the next meeting, you come in and sit at the back of the room. When the facilitator approaches you, she almost has to wrench the nutrition journal from your hands. Meanwhile she would ask, “How did you do?” You don’t speak, you let her review the prior two weeks’ entries in total silence. The facilitator says, “Now you see what I mean?” You ask, “How could I have been so far off?” She goes on to tell you that over time the mind develops “filters,” “assumptions,” “justifications.” Sometimes these “filters” help us to cope; other times they enable us to hide (obscuring our perception of reality). And if we do not demand accountability of ourselves; we never identify just where these filters exist. We never identify how they sabotage our ability to accomplish our goals.”

So it is with our “words.” Some of us want a rich, meaningful relationship with God, we really do. Yet, we persist in practices that sabotage our ability to accomplish this goal. We do not make ourselves accountable. Perhaps, sometimes, we do this because we really don’t want to know how bad things are. Other times, we don’t want to be responsible for having to change. The old adage, “what you don’t know won’t hurt you;” couldn’t be farther from the truth, in this case.

“Okay, so you are saying to me that I have an obligation to guard or monitor my “words?” you ask. Confirmed; we are required to govern not only our “words;” but our “use of words.” The words we use; the words we refrain from using and the intent of our use of words; all disclose what’s in our heart. They affect our relationship with God and others, for better or for worse.

Words can be used to:

- Give or take
- Create or destroy
- Direct or obscure
- Warn or condemn
- Etc.

Words are vehicles of expression: joy – desire – fear – hope – knowledge – wisdom – ignorance – and the list goes on. By our use of words, others are able to “read us.” Words can often disclose much more than we intend. That being the case, you can see at least one reason it is important to guard your words. You can tell a lot about a person by their use of words. By our use of words we *open doors*; by our use of words we *close doors*.

Watch these uses of words.

Deuteronomy 8:3 (KJV paraphrased) says that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that is spoken by God. Matt. 4:4 supports this truth. So here we learn some things about God’s words and His use of words. The words that He speaks have the capacity to enrich our lives. **Here His words “give.”**

Isaiah 55:11 (KJV paraphrased) says that just like the rain comes down from heaven and doesn’t return without watering the earth; which brings forth the flowers and grass; in like manner does the word of God behave. As surely as we look for beautiful flowers after an extended period of rain; so certainly ought we to expect the things that God has spoken to manifest. And

as certainly are we to look, with anticipation for them. **Here His words create.**

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 (KJV paraphrased) says that the word of God is very near to you. It affects what you say and it can govern your heart so that you can do what He says. **Here His word directs.**

Matthew 12:36-37 (KJV by reference) says ...that every idle word that men speak; shall be accounted for in the Day of Judgment. For by our words we will be justified and by them we will be condemned. **Here His word warns.**

Please do not think these words too strong. Our own judicial system espouses the same belief (regarding the use of words); which is why we are obliged to take an oath before giving testimony. You’ve heard that whatever you say, under oath; in a court of law can be used against you. We’ve accepted the notion that it’s okay for man to condemn us, by our words. But the fact that God has told us that our use of words either praise or condemn us; this we disallow.

I would admonish you to give it some consideration. Words are very strong; whole nations are moved by them. Wise or inappropriate uses of words have caused empires to rise or fall.

What do your words reveal about the condition of your heart? Govern your heart; guard your thoughts; control your words. 

JoAnn C. White, sMHG



## A Journey to Intimacy

*Getting to Know Him ... Focus*

### *The Journey - Distractions*

As I awoke one morning, I had just finished a most interesting dream.

*I was in the office. And a group of us had agreed to begin an exercise regimen together. In the dream, there was an exercise facility on the property. So on behalf of the team, I registered us for the use of the gym that next morning.*

*Everyone arrived, as planned. As were*

*preparing to go upstairs to the exercise facility. One gentleman said, "Wait! I hadn't thought about what I would like to eat after my workout." This interruption caused others to begin to wonder the same thing. I tried to get everyone upstairs to the gym, so that we could begin our workout program.*

*Finally, we were all upstairs just outside of the gym. There was a kitchen across the hall, and I thought I'd put something on the stove, so that I would also have something prepared when I finished my workout. I started to prepare a quick meal, and realized that I needed a few ingredients that were downstairs.*

*I got into the elevator to go downstairs to collect those items. Someone said, "Wait I'll go with you." It seemed to have taken them "forever" to get into the elevator. Just as the door was closing they got in.*

I woke up.

Rarely do I remember my dreams, unless they have some significance. As I awoke, I recalled that I needed to move the last load of clothes from the wash machine to the dryer. So I got up to complete that task. While I stood at the dryer; the Lord said to me, "You let them distract you. You never did complete your goal. You allowed other events to distract you from accomplishing your goal."

I froze. He was right.

My original intention, in the dream, was to go to the gym. Someone began talking about something else. While I managed to encourage everyone to go upstairs to the gym; I was soon distracted myself. Get this; (in the dream) we were standing literally right outside of the gym door. Not 25 feet from the entrance of the gym. I was distracted to the point that I left off from accomplishing my goal. Needless to say, I as realized what had happened, I was very ... very ... very displeased with myself. And what was most disconcerting about that distraction was that (in reality) I never eat right after leaving the gym. Although it is advisable; it is not a thing that I practice. So why-in-the-world would it have been a distraction in a dream "of all places?"

I somehow know that this is more than just a dream.

Let me share a few additional pieces of information. For the year 2008, I have committed to accomplish four specific goals. Not only have I committed myself to these goals; I have asked the Lord to lead me and coach me in the accomplishing of these goals.

The accomplishment of one goal is to be measured, every 15 days. Another goal is to be measured each quarter. The accomplishing of another goal requires that I practice nearly every day. The other goal will require an abundance of the grace of God; to accomplish. It's not impossible, it's just a goal that I have been the least able to commit to; although I know that my future assignments will require it. Don't get me wrong, I am absolutely committed at the "conceptual" level; I somehow must translate that commitment to the "practical" level.

It is clear to me that the Lord is telling me something about my resolve; which of course, concerns me. But I'm glad He loves us enough to tell us what we need to hear; more so than what we want to hear.

He has my attention now ... I am listening.

Here is where I am concerned. And this is my "dime-store" version of me, psycho-analyzing my self. It is my understanding that the subconscious mind does not differentiate between dream states and reality (which is why hypnosis is particularly affective for some). This you'll see supported by the fact that you wake up in torrential sweats, when the events in your dream move you to heightened levels of emotional excitement. The subconscious mind activates the emotions and intuition in "dream states;" just like in "awaken states."

That being said, I ask myself what is it about the strength of my resolve that I would allow myself to be distracted from my goal; and by something that is of no apparent value to me otherwise.

Now all of this may not seem like such a big deal. But considered in light of another lifelong goal I am committed to "the fostering of an intimate relationship with God;" the fact that I could be so easily distracted would have a more weighty affect on my relationship with God. The reason that this means so much to me is because I assess the overall value of my life by my relationship with God. My life is only as valuable to me; as the level of service I am able to render to God. And I know that it is in a place of intimacy that I am able to know Him.

It blesses me to see that the Lord loves us enough to warn

