

“God wants you to be filled with grace and truth so that when life squeezes you with challenges, problems, and issues, the only thing that comes out of your mouth will be the anointed Word of God!”



11 STEPS TO VICTORY

Partner, God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to walk among us years ago. Our heavenly Father sent Jesus to heal the sick, to raise the dead, to suffer, die, and be buried, and to be raised to life on the third day! Jesus was full of grace and truth.

I’ve studied the topic of grace and have found almost two dozen meanings and uses in the Old and New Testament. Among other things, *grace* means *kindness, pleasantness, precious, favor, the divine influence upon the heart, acceptable, benefit, liberality, thanks, joy, and gift*. *Grace is the anointing of the Holy Spirit*; He is called the Spirit of Grace. (See *Hebrews 10:29*.) Jesus was full of grace.

Jesus was also full of truth. *John 17:17* tells us that God’s Word is truth. **God wants you to be like Jesus—filled with grace, which is the anointing of the Holy Ghost, and filled with the Word of God.**

Partner, God wants you to be filled with grace and truth so that when life squeezes you with challenges, problems, and issues, the only thing that comes out of your mouth will be the anointed Word of God!

God’s Word in your mouth will change your life; it will correct wrongs and make them right. God’s Word in your mouth will open up doors of opportunity that no one thought you could access.



Your words frame your world. It is a solid biblical principle, and I can personally testify to it! May I share a bit of my testimony about how God's Word completely changed the trajectory of my life?

I was born deaf in one ear, and my vision was poor. During the first several years of my life, my mother thought I was being disobedient when I didn't respond to her directions, but I just couldn't hear her! Not hearing well affected my speech, too. I stuttered and struggled to speak. My mother used to tell my siblings and others, "Let's just wait until Keith can get the words out." As you might imagine, all of this took a toll on my self-image and confidence! Then to top it all off, my school counselor, a woman who was charged with helping me direct my future, told me I wasn't smart enough to do what I wanted to do.

I was in seventh grade when the guidance counselor asked me what I wanted to pursue as a career. Like most young men of that age, I had big dreams. I wanted to fly jets! The counselor, well aware of my GPA and my struggles with learning up to that point, told me that I needed to choose a future that involved working with my hands and not my brain. She flat out told me, "You're too dumb to fly jets!"

I was crushed, but I wasn't going to let her negative assessment of me direct my life! **It was a turning point for me. I made a decision to stand up and become who God created me to be!**

Partner, if you've gone through some difficult times, or if people don't believe that you can achieve God's dreams for your life, don't take it lying down! Get up! Get fired up! Begin to speak the Word of God over yourself! And do what I did.

I began to stand in front of my mirror every morning before I left for school. I spoke to myself and said, "You are as smart as anybody. You can do anything you decide to do."

My grades got progressively better. By the time I went to high school, my grades were good enough to allow me to enroll in college; over time, my grades got even better. I graduated from college, went to Bible School, started the ministry, became a Detroit City Councilman, and guess what? I even took pilot's training! **When my words changed, my world changed! Your words will change your world too, partner!**

When I was a teenager, I didn't know that I had tapped into the currency of faith. **The currency of faith-filled words is how God makes things happen in His kingdom!** For example, you had to engage your mouth to be born-again: "*That 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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*" (Romans 10:9-10).



You receive forgiveness by using your mouth: "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9). The Greek word for confess is *homologeō*; it means *to say with your mouth*.

Partner, you can do whatever God's Word says you can do when you get in agreement with His Word and say what God says! You can do all through Christ which strengtheneth you. (See *Philippians 4:13*.)

Apply the following principles to your relationships, your health, your finances, your business, your education, your ministry, or anything that agrees with God's Word and His plan for your life. You will go from loss to victory, from failure to success, and from lack to prosperity!

1 Decide to control your mouth. As the adage goes, "*Loose lips sink ships*." **You can't afford to say whatever pops into your head.** Thoughts of failure, sickness, and lack should not be given free-

dom of expression through your mouth. God told Joshua, “*This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success*” (Joshua 1:8).

2 Acknowledge every good thing that is in you. Remind yourself that you are the temple of the Holy Ghost and that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. (See *Philemon 1:6, 1 Corinthians 6:19, and 1 John 4:4.*)

3 Speak only the Word and live by it. The devil will tempt you to speak and act contrary to God’s Word, just as he did to Jesus in the wilderness. When he does, you need to answer him the same way Jesus did. *Matthew 4:4* tells us, “*But he [Jesus] answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*” **Remember that the devil uses people, and you will likely encounter individuals who speak death and failure over you, as my seventh-grade school counselor did to me.** God’s Word overpowers the words of others if you keep God’s Word as your primary focus!

4 Learn to be still; don’t talk all the time. Most of us talk too much. The old timers used to put it this way: “*God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason—we should listen twice as much as we talk.*” Solomon taught of the wisdom of letting your words be few: “*Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few*” (*Ecclesiastes 5:2*).

5 Study before you give an answer. (See *Proverbs 15:28.*) Don’t allow people to pressure you into making decisions or providing a response before you check with the Holy Ghost and God’s Word. Take time to pray and seek God before spouting off a reply.

6 Speak *against* the problem, not *about* the problem. Jesus told us to tell the mountain to move. **He didn’t tell us to worry about it, complain**

about it, or cry over it. “*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith*” (*Mark 11:23*).

7 Confess the Lordship of Jesus over every problem. *Romans 10:9* tells us to confess with our mouths the Lord Jesus. In other words, Jesus is the highest authority. He is higher than poverty. He is higher than any disease. He is higher than depression. He is higher than addiction. He is higher than debt. Confess that Jesus is Lord over your situation.

8 Stop talking about how mad, sad, or hurt you are. **Learn to control your mind, will, emotions, and your mouth.** David spoke to his soul when he was down. “*Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance*” (*Psalms 42:5*). You can handle your emotions in the same way David did. Hope in God and praise Him!

9 Ask the Lord to set a watch over your mouth. *Psalms 141:3* reads, “*Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.*” If that sounds too formal, let me put it more plainly. Pray and ask God to help you shut your mouth!



10

“Speaking to yourself in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody in your heart to the Lord...” (Ephesians 5:19).

Instead of singing popular tunes, sing about and to God. You should always have a song in your heart that glorifies God.



11

Keep a guard over your mouth. When Jesus heard that His dear friend, Lazarus,

was sick, He didn't react the way most people do. Jesus said, *“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby” (John 11:4).* Jesus wasn't implying that God made Lazarus sick so He would be glorified. God is love; He doesn't make His

children sick. Jesus was speaking what He wanted the end result to be. He chose to express what He believed instead of what He saw with His eyes or heard with His ears.

Partner, if you want victory, you must see into the spiritual realm and speak the victory by faith. You can't afford to stay bound to what you can experience through your five natural senses.

Jesus spoke that Lazarus would be just fine and God would be glorified. You should speak the same way.

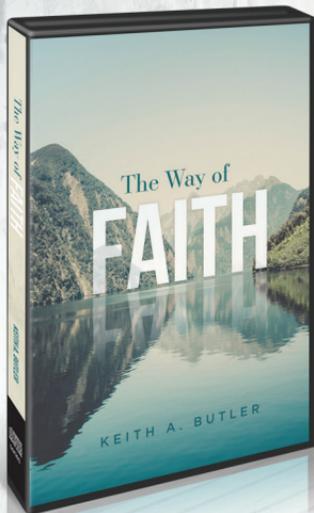
Regardless of what is happening, do what Abraham, the father of faith, did. He called those things which be not as though they were. *(See Romans 4:17.)* **Override the natural desire to speak what is. Keep a guard over your mouth and only say words of faith. Speak God's Word and God's will. Everything will be just fine, and God will be glorified!**

Pastor Deborah and I love you and pray for you daily. Always remember that.



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