

MARCH STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS OF DESTINY

In January and February, we traced Israel's journey of destiny from its inception through the lives of the fathers of their faith--Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We also walked in the footsteps of Joseph who saved the world from a great famine and Moses who delivered God's people from slavery.

This month, we find Israel at a crossroads of spiritual destiny. They are standing at the border of their Promised Land, their God-given destiny. Sadly, they do not advance into the land to secure it. Instead, they turn back into the wilderness where they wander around for forty long years. With the exception of Moses, Joshua, and Caleb, all of that generation dies, and a new generation is raised up and prepared to inherit God's promises.

The people of God were on the threshold of their destiny, but they did not enter in. Why was this so? For the next few months we will study reasons why Israel failed to claim their Promised Land. You may be thinking that this sounds like pretty negative subject matter for a daily devotional guide, but remember at the beginning of our journey--in the Introduction--there was a statement that this guide is not one designed to share sweet stories that make you feel good. We are on a march to destiny, and that involves dealing with both negative and positive issues.

In generating electricity, both a positive and negative wire are required to produce power. The insulation from each must be stripped down and then plugged into a switch or receptacle. This stripping down process is not easy, but it is necessary to produce power. If you hook up only the positive wire, you do not generate power. You get no electrical current. There is no light to dispel the darkness. You must put the negative and the positive together. When you do that and then flip the switch, the light comes on.

The same is true in the spiritual world. We must strip down and expose the negatives in our lives in order to receive positive input from God and produce spiritual power. We must deal with the negative first so we can see where positive input is needed.

During the next few months as you study these meditations, continually ask yourself: "What are the hindrances that are preventing me from claiming the promises God has given me? What are the obstacles blocking my pathway to destiny?"

We will deal with major obstacles in the lives of the Israelites, hindrances which will block the fulfillment of God's promises in your life. This month you will learn how disobedience and the words coming out of your mouth can abort your destiny. Death or life can be determined by what you say and how you respond to the Word of the Lord.

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MARCH 1 POSITIONED FOR VICTORY

The nation of Israel was at the greatest point of their spiritual destiny. The decision they would make that day would determine their future and the fate of the entire nation.

God had brought Israel to the border of the land. He had promised as an inheritance and commanded them to take possession of it. He had delivered them out of Egyptian bondage through great miracles, signs, and wonders. He opened up the Red Sea and they marched across on dry land (Exodus 14:21-22). He miraculously led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21-22). He fed them manna from heaven (Exodus 16:4,15). He caused water to gush forth from a rock (Exodus 17:5-6). He gave them a great victory over the Amalekites (Exodus 17:9-13).

The Great I Am—God Almighty—had manifested Himself on Mount Sinai in flaming fire and billowing smoke. They heard the trumpet of God blasting across the plains, summoning them to meet with Him. They saw His glory. They heard Him speak in an audible voice. There on Mount Sinai, God joined Himself together with them in a blood-covenant relationship.

God pledged Himself to be their God, to protect them, to prosper them, and to set them apart from the nations of the earth. Their enemies were His enemies, and all that He had belonged to them.

God promised to bring them “...to a land good and large, a land flowing with milk and honey – a land of plenty...” (Exodus 3:8, AMP). He sent the Angel of the Covenant--the preincarnate Son of God-- before them to lead, instruct, protect, and guide them and to drive out their enemies (Exodus 23:20-23). Now they had arrived at the border of their promised land and were positioned for victory.

Pause today and think of all the things God has done for you in the past. Reflect on the victories you have won and your prayers that have been answered. Take a look back at all God has done for you to bring you this point. Today, you are at the border of your destiny--a new vision, a new ministry, a new step of faith.

Like Israel--God has positioned you for victory! Your destiny lies just ahead. The question is: What happens next?

MARCH 2 MAKING A CHOICE

Approximately sixteen months after God delivered Israel out of Egyptian bondage, He brought them to the border of the Promised Land. From where they were camped, the Israelites could see the beautiful hills, fields, and pastures of the land which God had promised them as an inheritance.

Can you imagine the excitement that filled the hearts and minds of the people of Israel as they gazed toward the land of Canaan? Behind them were the years of slavery in Egypt—the pain and sorrow, the cruel taskmasters, the bondage, anguish, discouragement, and defeat. Their difficult desert journey was over.

Before them was the land of promise with all of the blessings of the covenant--prosperity, provision, protection, and peace. The land belonged to them legally because of the mandate from God, but having the promise was not the same as possessing it. The land was theirs unconditionally, but the possession of it was conditional and based upon their obedience.

God told them: “...if you will obey My voice in truth and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation (consecrated, set apart to the God)” (Exodus 19:5-6, AMP).

God had sent the Angel of the Covenant before them, warning them to:

...obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. (Exodus 23:21-22).

There, poised at Kadeshbarnea on the border, Moses told the Israelites:

...Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the Lord our God doth give unto us. Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged. (Deuteronomy 1:20-21)

God instructed Israel to advance and take possession of the land. Their destiny was in their own hands. They had a choice: To obey God and possess the land, or to disobey God, forfeit their inheritance, and reap the punishment for their disobedience. You have a similar choice. What will you do?

MARCH 3 TO WHOM WILL YOU LISTEN?

Moses sent twelve men, one from each of the tribes of Israel, to spy out the Promised Land. After exploring for forty days, the men returned. The entire congregation was anxiously waiting to hear what these twelve leaders had to say.

The spies told Moses, *“We came to the land to which you sent us; surely it flows with milk and honey; this is its fruit”* (Numbers 13:27, AMP). Can you imagine the excitement among the congregation as these twelve men showed them the fruit they had brought from the land? Just as God promised, the soil was rich and fertile. They brought back pomegranates, figs, and a single cluster of grapes that was so large it took two men to carry it on a pole between them. At long last, their waiting was over. Soon they would be enjoying the fruit of the land and the blessings God had promised them!

But then ten of the spies reported that *“...the people who dwell there are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; moreover there we saw the sons of Anak (of great stature and courage)”* (Numbers 13:28, AMP). At this news, concern spread among the Israelites and they began to express their doubts and fears.

Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, tried to encourage the people saying, *“Let us go up at once and possess it; we are well able to conquer it”* (Numbers 13:30). But the other men said, *“We are not able to go up against the people (of Canaan); for they are stronger than we are”* (Numbers 13:31). Two expressed faith to advance. Ten gave a negative report saying that the land was possessed by powerful enemies that would destroy them. At this point, the people had heard two voices: The voice of faith and the voice of unbelief. One voice said, "We are well able." The other voice said, "We are not able."

God had told the Israelites to go in and take possession of the land. He had assured them that He would drive out their enemies before them. No further discussion was necessary. No questioning. No hesitating. All that was required was for them to obey the voice of God. The voice of God had been confirmed by the voice of faith when Caleb said, *“We are well able to conquer it.”* He and Joshua pleaded with the people not to rebel against God (Numbers 14:7-9).

God’s people had a choice: To listen to the voice of faith and obey God, or to listen to the voice of unbelief and rebel against Him. Which voice will you listen to? God had told the people to advance, no questions asked. Never put a question mark where God has put a period.

MARCH 4 AGREEING WITH GOD

Israel was defeated because they rejected the voice of God and followed their own carnal thinking. Instead of going forward to take possession of the land as God had commanded, they listened to negative reports which created doubt and resulted in disobedience. They chose their will above God's will. They rejected Him as the supreme authority of their lives. They actually wanted to return to slavery in Egypt rather than obey God and advance at His command.

Moses and Aaron recognized the ramifications of their rebellion and fell on their faces in fear before God. Joshua and Caleb, in great anguish, tore their clothes and pleaded with them not to rebel. But the children of Israel refused to listen. Once they made the choice to go their own way, nothing anyone could say or do could alter their decision.

The people were actually ready to stone Caleb and Joshua! They wanted to ease their consciences by silencing those who represented God's will and spoke His Word. As they were getting ready to do this, the glory of God appeared before the people at the Tent of Meeting. God was ready to destroy the entire congregation! Moses interceded for them and God graciously forgave their rebellion, but He did not let them go unpunished. He told Moses that all those who were twenty years of age and older would not enter the Promised Land, but would die in the wilderness.

God told Moses to "...turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea" (Numbers 14:25, NIV). The next morning the people came to Moses saying, "*We have sinned, they said. We will go up to the place the Lord Promised*" (Numbers 14:40, NIV). Once again they were rejecting the Word of God by choosing their own way. When God had told them to go forward, they refused. Now that He commanded them to turn back, they decided they wanted to go forward. Moses said, "Why are you disobeying the Lord's command? This will not succeed!" And it didn't (Numbers 14:41-43).

If you are to fulfill your divine destiny, you must learn to agree with what God says and act upon it. In Jeremiah chapter 1, God reveals Jeremiah's divine destiny. God declared, "*Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*" Jeremiah's response was "*...Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.*" God answer was, "*...Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces, for I am with thee to deliver thee saith the Lord.*" (Jeremiah 1:5-7).

When God declares something, agree with it and act in faith upon it. Do not substitute your own thoughts, fears, or plans. If you disobey God's commands, you will not succeed. You will fail. Guaranteed. If you obey His Word, you will succeed in all you do. Believe what God says--not what the voice of man dictates. Watch what your own mouth says. Make sure your words agree with God.

MARCH 5 ENTERING INTO REST

Just as Satan spoke through the spies to keep Israel from their divine destiny, he will speak to you through other people—perhaps even your closest friends and loved ones—to attempt to discourage you from fulfilling your vision. They may say things like...

- It can't be done.
- Are you sure God told you to do that?
- This situation is hopeless.
- You might as well give up.

Listening to such voices will cause you to rebel and reject the voice of God, just as the children of Israel did.

After all God had done for Israel—the miracles He had performed in delivering them out of the hands of the Egyptians, guiding them, feeding and providing for them during their journey—it is hard to understand why they listened to the negative reports instead of believing God's promises.

We wonder how Israel could possibly doubt God, yet there are many believers today who react the same way. God has given us a written record of the miracles He has done in behalf of His people down through the centuries. We have personally experienced His love, provision, and healing power. But when we face circumstances in our lives that require us to act in obedience to His Word, our hearts are sometimes filled with doubt, unbelief, and rebellion just like the children of Israel. Paul warned:

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God...“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.” Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. (Hebrews 3:12,15-19, NIV)

The word “rest”, as used by Paul, is not referring to a place of physical rest from labor or a place where you are free from the problems and cares of this life. It is referring to that powerful spiritual dimension where one takes full possession of their inheritance. It is a place of peace and security—freedom from fear, worry, and stress—even in the midst of great adversity. It is a place of blessing and provision, a place of power and victory over the enemy, a place of joy and contentment, a place where you cease from striving to walk in your own strength and you are walking in God's strength.

This spiritual place of rest stands before you today. Refuse the voices of disbelief. Do not speak words of doubt. Enter into God's rest by faith.

MARCH 6 LIVING SUPERNATURALLY

Israel failed to enter into the rest God had secured for them. Paul warned the believers, *“Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience” (Hebrews 4:11, NIV).*

The only way to fulfill the destiny God has planned for you is by obedience. You must shut out every voice that would tempt you to disobey God. You must set your heart and mind to obey Him, regardless of the cost.

The Israelites refused to listen to the voice of God, but chose instead to listen to negative reports. They began to grumble and murmur against Moses and Aaron. *“If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” (Numbers 14:2-3, NIV).*

Their grumbling was directed at Moses and Aaron, but their murmuring was actually against God. It was an outward expression of the unbelief that was in their hearts.

-They had murmured and complained about a lack of food: *“Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full” (Exodus 16:3).*

-They murmured and complained that there was no water: *“Wherefore is this that thou has brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?” (Exodus 17:3).*

-They were not satisfied with the manna God gave them, and had murmured and complained that there was no flesh to eat: *“Who shall give us flesh to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt...” (Numbers 11:18).*

Then, at Kadeshbarnea as they listened to the negative reports concerning the giants in the land, they murmured and complained, fearing that they would die in battle and that their wives and children would be taken captive. Their constant murmuring was actually against God, accusing Him of not fulfilling His promises. They were forgetting what God had already done for them in the past and the promises He had made for their future.

How about you? Are you complaining because of your circumstances today? Are you forgetting what He has done for you in the past? Murmuring and complaining are natural responses to difficult circumstances. But as believers, we do not live in the natural, rather we live in the supernatural. Take time to remember what God has done for you in times gone by. The miracles of your past can pave the pathway to your future. Choose to live supernaturally.

MARCH 7
WORDS OF DEATH OR LIFE

Disobedience kept Israel from advancing into their promised land. Another big barrier to claiming their inheritance was the words that came out of their mouths. During the coming days we are going to deal with one of the most powerful forces in the world, one that determines the entire course of your life:

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge it shall eat the fruit of it (for death or life). (Proverbs 18:21, AMP)

Your words determine your destiny! You are either speaking forth...

- Blessing or cursing.
- Power or weakness.
- Faith or unbelief.
- Victory or defeat.
- Abundance or lack.
- Life or death.
- Words that will advance or hinder your destiny.

If you continually speak negative words of defeat and discouragement, you are setting the course of your life to live in defeat and discouragement. If you constantly talk about your problems, the words coming out of your mouth will hinder you from taking possession of God's promises and fulfilling your divine destiny.

If you take control of your tongue, however, and fill your mouth with the Word of God and speak it forth by faith, you will be setting the course of your life to live in victory. By your verbal confession, you will be taking ownership of God's promises!

God wants to bring you into a new dimension of spiritual authority where your words, spoken with power and invested in the promises of God, will enable you to confront and conquer every stronghold of the enemy. Before you can enter this powerful realm of spiritual authority however, you must gain control of your tongue.

It was negative words that prevented Israel from embracing their destiny and led them to rebel against God. What words will come out of your mouth today? Will you speak words of death to your destiny, or will you speak words of life?

MARCH 8 THE UNTAMABLE TONGUE

Although the tongue is a little member of your body, it is very powerful:

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. (James 3:1-8)

Through the tongue, your whole being can be defiled: Your mind, soul, and spirit. The tongue can never be tamed by man. Only when you yield your tongue to God can it be controlled. Like a ferocious animal, your tongue can never be left unguarded!

The Bible compares the tongue to:

- A burning fire: Proverbs 16:27; James 3:5
- A world of iniquity: James 3:6
- A beast that needs taming: James 3:7-8
- A fountain of either fresh or bitter water: James 3:11
- A tree bearing either good or evil fruit: James 3:12
- An unruly evil: James 3:8
- Deadly poison: James 3:8
- A sharp razor: Psalms 52:2
- A sharp sword: Psalms 57:4; 59:7
- A poisonous serpent: Psalms 140:3
- A deep pit: Proverbs 22:14

As these scriptures reflect, the tongue can be an unrestrained force for evil. When brought under the control of the Holy Spirit, however, this powerful member of your body can be used for good--to speak forth God's Word of salvation, faith, healing, and deliverance.

MARCH 9 TREASURES OF YOUR HEART

The heart communicates with the brain and the rest of the body in three ways that have been documented by scientific evidence: Neurologically (through transmissions of nerve impulses), biochemically (through hormones and neurotransmitters), and biophysically (through pressure waves). In addition, growing scientific evidence suggests that the heart may communicate with the brain and body through electromagnetic fields. Through these biological communication systems, the heart has a significant influence on the function of your brain and your bodily systems.

The heart and mind are intricately related, and that is why the Bible says what is in a man's heart determines his actions and the words coming out of his mouth. If an individual's heart is filled with negative thoughts--hatred, anger, jealousy, fear, worry, pride, bitterness, and strife--that is exactly what will come out of his mouth. If his mind and heart are continually filled with carnal thoughts and lusts of the flesh, it will be manifested in his speech.

On the other hand, if an individual's heart and mind are filled with positive thoughts--thoughts of faith, love, joy, peace--that is what will come out of his mouth. If his desires are centered on God and fulfilling His will, then he will speak forth faith-filled words. Even though a person claims to be a Christian and has an outward appearance of righteousness, if his heart and mind are not pure, his words will reflect this. Both blessing and cursing will come out of his mouth:

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. (James 3:9-12)

A heart that is corrupted by greed, jealousy, anger, pride, bitterness, and unforgiveness cannot produce the fruit of good, wholesome words. The heart and mind must first be cleansed and renewed by the Holy Spirit. The good treasure stored in a believer's heart and mind is the powerful living and written Word of God. Jesus said, "*..the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*" (John 6:63).

When your heart and mind are saturated with the Word of God, then you will speak pure, powerful, faith-filled words that are spirit and life to those who hear them. If the treasures in your heart are evil--filled with lust, carnal desires, greed, jealousy, anger, pride, bitterness and unforgiveness--then your mouth will spew forth evil things.

You are the one who determines what will come out of your mouth--whether it will be good or evil. Determine that today, only faith-filled words will come out of your mouth. Israel erred in their hearts, then they sinned with their mouths. God said: "*Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways*" (Hebrews 3:10).

MARCH 10 CHANGING YOUR COURSE

You can change the entire course of your life by bringing your tongue under the control of the Holy Spirit. If you are living in discouragement, failure, or defeat in any area of your life, you can change this by correcting your speech--by restraining your tongue from negative words and by speaking words of life, blessing, and faith.

God requires you to discipline your tongue and bring it under the control of the Holy Spirit. This does not happen automatically. You are commanded: "*Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit*" (Psalm 34:13, AMP). King Solomon warned: "*Do not allow your mouth to cause your body to sin*" (Ecclesiastes 5:6, AMP). The Apostle Peter said: "*Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech*" (1 Peter 3:10, NIV).

Like King David, you must purpose in your heart that you will not sin with your mouth. David said, "*I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress*" (Psalm 17:3). He also said, "*I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me*" (Psalm 39:1). The word *keep* is translated from a Hebrew word which means to guard or protect. You must guard your tongue and keep close watch over the words you speak. You must restrain your tongue and refuse to yield to the flesh by speaking evil, vain, or idle words.

You must be vigilant to guard your tongue. Be alert for any sign that the enemy is using your words to sin against God. Do not let Satan control your tongue and use it to destroy you. Remember that each time you criticize, backbite, gossip, lie, slander, or spread discord, you are yielding your tongue to Satan!

Paul told the Ephesians: "*Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word, nor unwholesome or worthless talk (ever) come out of your mouth; but only such (speech) as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it*" (Ephesians 4:29, 31-32, AMP). Paul said you are to speak what is fitting and blesses others.

Analyze your words today. Are you using foul, negative, demeaning words? Are you speaking evil, telling dirty jokes and using profanity? What kind of testimony are the words of your mouth to those around you who are lost in sin? Determine to speak only what is good and beneficial, words that are wholesome and fitting to the need or occasion. You have the power to change the course of your entire life by controlling your tongue.

MARCH 11
SNARING YOURSELF

It is one thing to fall into a trap set by Satan--as he has many devious methods to ensnare you. It is quite another to snare yourself by your own mouth!

-You can snare yourself with your own words:

Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth; thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.
(Proverbs 6:2)

-Your words can separate you from God:

Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us? (Psalms 12:4)

-Your words can create a breach--an opening--in your spirit:

A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.
(Proverbs 15:4)

-Your lips affect your soul:

A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. (Proverbs 18:7)

-Your uncontrolled tongue leads to trouble:

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. (Proverbs 21:23)

-Your tongue affects your whole body:

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of Hell. (James 3:6)

-Your tongue affects your whole life:

He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life; but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction. (Proverbs 13:3)

Meditate on these powerful verses today. They illustrate why gaining control of your tongue is mandatory.

MARCH 12
WHAT NOT TO SPEAK

For the next few days we will meditate on the types of speech that the Bible warns against. We are to refrain from speaking...

-Covetous words:

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have; for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)

-Idol words:

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. (Matthew 12:36)

-Foolish words:

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge; but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness. (Proverbs 15:14)

-Unprofitable words:

Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. (2 Timothy 2:14)

-Fables and commandments of men:

Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. (Titus 1:14)

-Evil about things you do not know:

But these speak evil of those things which they know not... (Jude 10)

But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption. (2 Peter 2:12)

-Flattering words:

For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloak of covetousness; God is witness. (1 Thessalonians 2:5)

Pray about these as you conclude your quiet time today.

MARCH 13
WHAT NOT TO SPEAK
(continued)

We are meditating on the types of speech that the Bible warns against. Believers should not speak.

Vain words:

They speak vanity every one with his neighbor.. (Psalms 12:2)

Proud words:

...with their mouth they speak proudly. (Psalms 17:10)

Enticing words:

And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. (Colossians 2:4)
(Enticing words sound wise and plausible, but are not.)

Boastful words:

How long shall they utter and speak hard things? And all the workers of iniquity boast themselves. (Psalms 94:4)

Words which take God's name in vain:

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain. (Exodus 20:7)

Cursing and bitter words:

Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. (Romans 3:14) :

Lies:

Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous. (Psalms 31:18)

Malicious words against others:

Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deed which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words...(3 John 10)

As you talk today, analyze what you are saying. Are you guilty of any of these violations?

MARCH 14
WHAT NOT TO SPEAK
(continued)

We are meditating on the types of speech that the Bible warns against. Here are some additional words that believers should not speak.

Backbiting words:

He that backbiteth not with his tongue... (Psalms 15:3)

Words of discord:

...he that soweth discord among brethren. (Proverbs 6:19)

Contentious words:

A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes. (Proverbs 18:6)

Words of strife:

Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues. (Psalms 31:20)

Devouring and deceitful words:

Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue. (Psalms 52:4)

Froward and perverse words:

Put away from thee a froward mouth and perverse lips put far from thee. (Proverbs 4:24)

Mischievous words:

They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long. (Psalms 38:12)

Tale bearing words:

A talebearer revealeth secrets; but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter. (Proverbs 11:13)

Filthy words:

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. (Colossians 3:8)

MARCH 15 WORDS KEPT THEM OUT

The Bible records the specific words that kept Israel out of their Promised Land:

And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. (Numbers 14:1-4)

Did you see it? The people "murmured against Moses and Aaron". Murmuring is an outward expression of unbelief. When you murmur against your circumstances or against your spiritual leaders, you are actually murmuring against God. It reveals a lack of trust in God's goodness, His love, His provision, and the leadership He has set over your life.

There are many believers today who have fallen into this snare of the enemy. When they face problems in their finances, in their families, or on the job, instead of trusting God they begin to murmur. They may not speak audibly, but in their hearts they are saying, "Why has God allowed this to happen to me? I am tired of never having enough money to meet my needs. Why doesn't God answer my prayers? Has He forgotten me?" On the job, they murmur about the immense amount of work they have. They grumble about their salaries, the working conditions, and claim they aren't being treated fairly.

The Israelites murmured because of the carnal desires and appetites of their flesh. They were not satisfied with the manna God provided for them. They were ungrateful for what God gave them and longed for the fish, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic they had enjoyed in Egypt. They would rather be slaves--go back to the old life--than to obey God.

When you murmur, you are doubting God's provision and care for you. Moses told the Israelites, "*The Lord has heard your grumbings which you murmur against Him, what are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord*" (Exodus 16:8, AMP). When you complain and grumble, you are not murmuring against people or circumstances. You are murmuring against God. And yes, He hears you. Not only does He hear you, but your words of unbelief hinder you from acting in faith upon His promises.

Paul used the example of the Israelites to warn the Corinthians not to grumble. He said, "*And do not grumble, as some of them did and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come*" (1 Corinthians 10:10-11, NIV). Just as murmuring kept the Israelites out of the Promised Land, grumbling and complaining will hinder you from entering into your spiritual destiny.

MARCH 16
WORDS THAT HINDER DESTINY

The Bible is specific about the words that hinder your destiny.

Lying is one of the deadliest sins of the tongue against which you must set a guard. Among the things that God especially hates is a lying tongue:

There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. (Proverbs 6:16-19, NIV)

When you speak words of truth, you speak life. When you speak lies, you speak death. When you make promises to others or to God and fail to keep them, you are lying. If you realize you have failed to be honest or if you have made a promise to someone and have not fulfilled it, acknowledge it. Repent and ask God to enable you to keep you from lying by making promises you cannot fulfill. Before you make promises, be sure that you are able and willing to fulfill them.

Murmuring is another barrier preventing believers from entering into the promises of God. Through murmuring and complaining, you speak death into your circumstances instead of life.

Gossip is another hindrance that will abort your destiny, and it is time we recognize gossip for what it is--a sin. Those who gossip are yielding their tongues to Satan and bringing curses upon themselves.

Backbiting is also a method through which Satan has erected a major stronghold. Backbiting is a form of gossip for the specific purpose of saying mean and spiteful things about another person. Backbiting is also referred to in the Word as "false accusation."

Slander is finding fault with others and spreading unjust innuendos and criticism. When a Christian slanders someone, it harms three persons: The individual who is speaking, the individual spoken to, and the individual spoken about. Not only must you not speak evil about your brothers and sisters in the Lord, you are commanded not to speak evil of any man (James 4:11).

Pray about each of the following areas before you conclude your quiet time today. Are you using your tongue to:

- Lie?
- Murmur?
- Gossip?
- Backbite?
- Slander?

Remember--these types of words will hinder your destiny!

MARCH 17

FORFEITED DESTINY

Israel's words led to unbelief and fear, and unbelief and fear led to rebellion. Such is the power of the tongue that prevented God's people from entering into their Promised Land.

God had told Israel to take possession of their land, but instead of going forward they rebelled and turned back. Before them was the land God promised. It belonged to them. It was a rich, fertile land with green valleys. It was a land where God promised to bless and multiply them above the nations of the earth and give them health and prosperity. Yet, because of their unbelief, they turned back.

- They refused to hear the voice of God.
- They rejected His Word.
- They refused to act in faith on what He had promised.
- They refused to obey.

The people declared:

...Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt? And they said to each other, We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt. (Numbers 14:3-4, NIV)

In order to take possession of their inheritance, it would be necessary for Israel to face giants, to fight against evil nations, and drive out the enemy. Because of their own negative words which fostered unbelief, they feared their enemies more than they feared God.

Instead of going in to do battle and take dominion over their enemies, they decided they would rather return to slavery in Egypt. Can you imagine? There on the verge of victory, Israel retreated. In so doing, that generation forfeited their inheritance.

Just as negative words led the Israelites to rebel against God, your words have the power to do the same. When you are tempted to speak negative words about your circumstances, recognize this is one of Satan's main strategies to abort your destiny. Refuse to do it!

You will either go forward and claim your destiny, or you will retreat. Your words, coming out of your own mouth, will determine whether you will advance or forfeit your destiny.

MARCH 18
VICTORY OVER THE TONGUE

The tongue is a powerful force, but through the power of the Holy Spirit and the application of principles from God's Word it can be controlled. During the next few days we will meditate on scriptural principles to control your mouth. Here are the first three:

Get your heart right with God:

The first step in gaining victory over the tongue is to get your heart right with God because...

... those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies; These are the things which defile a man...
(Matthew 15:18-20)

Your mouth will speak what is in your heart. If your heart is not right, your tongue will reveal it.

Take the first step in using your tongue properly by getting your heart right with God:

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)

Recognize your responsibility:

Recognize that you will be held responsible for the words that come out of your mouth:

But 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)

And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant...
(Luke 19:22)

Keep your words few and simple:

In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.
(Proverbs 10:19)

But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. (Matthew 5:37)

MARCH 19
VICTORY OVER THE TONGUE
(continued)

We are meditating on scriptural principles to control the words coming out of your mouth. Here are two additional principles:

Realize your words reflect on the Gospel:

As long as you believe your tongue is not important, you will not gain control of it. You must realize that your conversation reflects on the Gospel of Jesus:

*Only let your conversation be as it becometh the Gospel of Christ...
(Philippians 1:27)*

Because of this, you should set a good example by your conversation:

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

What comes out of your mouth is heard by the heathen:

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them. (Psalms 126:2)

You can actually win others to the Lord Jesus Christ by your conversation:

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. (1 Peter 3:1-2)

Think before you speak:

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear; slow to speak, slow to wrath. (James 1:19)

If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth. (Proverbs 30:32)

The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things. (Proverbs 15:28)

Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding. (Proverbs 17:28)

MARCH 20
VICTORY OVER THE TONGUE
(continued)

We are meditating on scriptural principles to control your mouth. Here are five additional principles:

Separate yourself from those who cannot control their tongues:

Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge. (Proverbs 14:7)

You become like the people you hang out with. That is why the Bible warns:

Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul. (Proverbs 22:24-25)

You learn the ways of those you associate with, including emulating their speech patterns.

Learn the power of peaceful words:

The Bible confirms that *"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger"* (Proverbs 15:1).

Recognize your tongue is a weapon:

Your tongue is a weapon you can use to overcome the enemy instead of being defeated by him:

And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony... (Revelation 12:11)

In summary, here are the points we have meditated on during the past few days. These principles will enable you to achieve victory over your tongue. As you review this list, determine that you will...

- Get your heart right with God.
- Recognize your responsibility to control your tongue.
- Keep your words few and simple.
- Realize your words reflect on the Gospel.
- Think before you speak.
- Separate yourself from those who cannot control their tongues.
- Learn the power of peaceful words.
- Recognize your tongue is a weapon.

MARCH 21

DEALING WITH AN EVIL REPORT

The ten spies gave an evil report and it resulted in Israel turning back into the wilderness. Here is how to recognize an evil report, discern the motives behind it, and stop it when you are confronted by it.

Recognizing an evil report.

- It will raise questions about the motives or actions of others.
- It will discredit spiritual leadership.
- It will cause division and strife.
- It always focuses on the negative.
- The person will create curiosity. They may say "You won't believe what I heard."
- They will claim to have access to inside information.
- They may disguise it as a request for counsel. "I need your opinion on a matter."
- An evil report can come in the form of a prayer request which shares gossip as it is given.
- An evil report is often shared as a concern. The person says, "I am deeply concerned about this."

Discerning motives for an evil report.

- Pride: To exalt themselves, a person puts down someone else.
- Envy: A person secretly desires what others have, so they criticize them.
- Guilt: A person transfers his guilt to others by pointing out their faults.
- Bitterness: A person has been hurt, so they hurt others with their words.
- Rebellion: Read the story of rebellious Absalom in 2 Samuel 15. One way to recognize a rebellious motive is by statements similar to those made by Absalom: "If I were the leader I would...."

Stopping an evil report.

Ask the person giving the report the following questions:

- "Why are you telling me this?"
- "Where did you get this information?"
(A person giving an evil report usually will not want to tell you their source.)
- "Have you gone to the person you are talking about according to the principles of Matthew 18:15-17"?
- "Have you checked the facts, or are you just repeating what you heard?"
- "Can I quote you when I check out the facts on this?"
- "Do you think this qualifies as the things upon which we are to focus according to Philippians 4:8?"

Or you may just simply say... "I really do not want to hear this."

MARCH 22
CONTROLLING YOUR TONGUE

As you have learned, scriptures confirm that your tongue can be controlled. But **you** must take the initiative to control your own tongue. The following verses all indicate actions you must take:

*For he that will love life, and see good days, **let him** refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile. (1Peter 3:10)*

*...**Speak** evil of no man...(Titus 3:2)*

***Let your** conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have... (Hebrews 13:5)*

*Only **let your** conversation be as it becometh the Gospel of Christ... (Philippians 1:27)*

*That **ye put off** concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that **ye put on** the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore **putting away** lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor...(Ephesians 4:22-25)*

*But now **ye also put off**..filthy communication out of your mouth. (Colossians 3:8)*

***Let** no corrupt communication proceed out of **your** mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (Ephesians 4:29)*

*Let all...evil speaking be put away from **you**...(Ephesians 4:31)*

*...**be ye** holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, **be ye** holy; for I am holy. (1 Peter 1:15-16)*

***Put away** from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. (Proverbs 4:24)*

***Keep** thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. (Psalms 34:13)*

*I said, **I will take heed** to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me. (Psalms 39:1)*

*Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me; and to **him that ordereth** his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God. (Psalms 50:23)*

***Thou** shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain. (Exodus 20:7)*

***Thou** shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)*

MARCH 23
REFORMING YOUR TONGUE

You can reform your tongue! Start by patterning your conversation after Jesus.

Jesus spoke gracious words:

And all bare Him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth, And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? (Luke 4:22)

Jesus spoke words of authority:

And they were astonished at His doctrine: for He taught them as one that had authority and not as the scribes. (Mark 1:22)

There was no guile (sinful speaking) found in His mouth:

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to him that judgeth righteously. (1 Peter 2:22-23)

You can choose to speak:

Words of wisdom:

My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. (Psalms 49:3)

Words that describe God's works instead of worldly concerns:

I will speak of the glorious honor of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. (Psalms 145:5)

Words about God's Word. Talk about what you are learning and what the Word is doing in your life:

My tongue shall speak of thy Word; for all thy commandments are righteousness. (Psalms 119:172)

Words of comfort:

Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

Words about the Kingdom of God:

They shall speak of the glory of thy Kingdom, and talk of thy power. (Psalms 145:11)

MARCH 24
THE POWER OF PRAISE

There is tremendous power in praise. When you are tempted to complain, transform your complaint into praise to God.

Let your mouth be filled with praise to God:

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; and let all flesh bless His holy name for ever and ever. (Psalms 145:21)

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand. (Psalms 149:6)

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever; with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. (Psalms 89:1)

I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth; yea, I will praise Him among the multitude. (Psalms 109:30)

My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. (Psalms 119:171)

*Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. (Psalms 63:3)
..and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips. (Psalms 63:5)*

Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honor all the day. (Psalms 71:8)

My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed. (Psalms 71:23)

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. (Psalms 34:1)

Determine that in every situation you will give thanks and rejoice in the Lord:

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. (Philippians 4:4) .

You may not be able to give thanks *for* every situation, but you can to lift a sacrifice of praise *in* every circumstance knowing that God is working all things for your good (Romans 8:28).

MARCH 25
BEFORE YOU SPEAK

David asked the Lord, "*Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips*" (Psalm 141:3). This is a good prayer for all believers to pray.

We have reviewed many scriptures that will help you control your tongue. Today we want to consider some practical guidelines. Before you speak, ask these questions.

- Will what I am about to say bring glory to God?
- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
- Will it edify others (result in goodwill and better friendships)?
- Have I talked to the person I am talking about?
- Is what I am saying a fact that needs to be shared or is it based on rumors and does not really need to be said?
- Is it absolutely necessary that I share this?

Before you speak, think on these verses:

For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. (Psalms 139:4)

...the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. (Proverbs 16:21)

The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips. (Proverbs 16:23)

A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth; and a word spoken in due season, how good is it! (Proverbs 15:23)

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. (2 Peter 3:11)

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. (Proverbs 25:11)

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles. (Proverbs 21:23)

He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life; but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction. (Proverbs 13:3)

MARCH 26
PROMISES, PRAYERS,
THOUGHTS, AND PURPOSE

Yesterday we reviewed some questions to ask and verses to consider before speaking.

Today we will look at some promises to claim in regards to your tongue, some prayers to pray, some things to think upon, and an important purpose to establish.

Claim these promises:

Hear; For I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. (Proverbs 8:6-8)

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)

Pray these prayers:

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. (Psalms 141:3)

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer. (Psalms 19:14)

Think on these things:

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:8)

Establish this purpose:

Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou has tried me, and shalt find nothing: I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. (Psalms 17:3)

MARCH 27 SPEAKING THE WORD

We have meditated on many powerful scriptural strategies for dealing with the tongue. Controlling your tongue is important because God wants to bring you into a new dimension of authority where you are speaking His Word and His supernatural power is released through the words He gives you to speak.

Jesus spoke words directed by the Father with the authority of God--and His words were powerful. Every word He spoke was fulfilled. There was absolutely no margin for error, no faltering, no wondering. He spoke and it was done. This was the key to releasing God's supernatural power in His ministry.

Jesus was sent by God, anointed by the Holy Spirit, and given authority to speak and act in God's stead, to speak His Words, and to do His will: "...*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him*" (Acts 10:38). Jesus declared:

...I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak. (John 12:49-50)

"Speaking the Word" is not merely selecting verses out of the Bible and repeating them over and over again, hoping they will eventually come to pass. Speaking the Word is not some sort of mystical mantra or "mind over matter" recitation.

Jesus said: "*If you live in Me--abide vitally united to Me--and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you*" (John 15:7, AMP). Wait in God's presence until you receive the Word for every circumstance you encounter. Then, as you speak forth the Rhema Word He has given you under the unction and direction of the Holy Spirit, the Living Word within you will manifest His power through you.

You must stay in God's presence until you receive His direction concerning what you are to say and do. Remain in His presence, waiting, and worshiping until He gives you the specific Word of God to speak forth.

As you speak the Word of God, He will do the work. The key for the fulfillment of the Word is in the Word itself--the written and living Word!

...The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach. (Romans 10:8)

MARCH 28 ABIDING IN CHRIST

If you are to speak God's Word in a new dimension of authority, then you must spend time with Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Wait upon Him for His direction concerning what you are to say and do each day. Allow the powerful resurrection life that is within Him to flow through your entire being. Draw your life from Him. It is the life contained within the written Word that will quicken you and empower you to go beyond your own human limitations.

Get into the Word of God and fill your heart and mind with it until it comes alive within you. Jesus said that if we are vitally united to Him and His Words are our hearts, then we can ask anything and it will be done: *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you"* (John 15:7).

Life and death are in the power of your tongue. As you bring your tongue under control of the Holy Spirit and enter into a new dimension of spiritual authority, you will be able to successfully confront the enemy. By speaking God's Word in every situation, you will destroy the strongholds of the enemy through the power of the Holy Spirit.

By the words coming out of your mouth, you will demolish every barrier, every obstacle, and every work of the enemy that is blocking you from taking possession of God's promises. As you speak the specific Word that God directs you to speak, it will be a mighty, indestructible weapon in your mouth that will force the enemy to retreat from your life and circumstances.

You are no longer on the defensive, running, afraid, and intimidated by Satan. God has given you the same anointing of the Holy Spirit that was upon Christ. Through the Holy Spirit you have the same power and authority that Jesus has over all the power of the enemy. You have the Living Word within you and God has given you the eternal, all-powerful, living, infallible Word to speak forth. Through it, you will be able to tear down Satan's strongholds and fulfill the purposes of God upon the earth.

The Word has not changed since the day God spoke the worlds into existence. *"Forever, oh Lord, thy Word is settled in Heaven"* (Psalm 119:89). The Word of God is not the product of time, but eternity. It is everlasting and unchanging. The Word of God in your mouth today is the same Word Jesus spoke when He opened blind eyes, healed the lame, and cast out devils. The Word of God in your mouth cannot be destroyed, cannot be defeated, and cannot be bound!

Before you finish your quiet time, select several scriptures that apply to the challenges you are facing today and then declare this Word over your circumstances. Instead of words of defeat, speak the victorious Word of God to your need.

MARCH 29
IT WILL BE DONE

When you speak the Word of God in power and authority, it will break through every barrier the enemy has built and pull down the strongholds of evil powers and principalities that are operating over your home, community, city, and nation. This is why it is important to control your tongue and speak God's Word instead of negative and sinful words.

As you take authority over your tongue, God will give you words of wisdom and knowledge beyond your natural understanding. You will have a new boldness in speaking the Word of God. You will speak the Word and see miracles: Blind eyes will open, cripples will walk, and all types of sickness and disease will be healed. You will speak the Word and demons will flee.

The Word of God coming out of your mouth will break the darkest satanic strongholds. The Word in your mouth will be the weapon which will enable you to overcome Satan and his horde of demons.

When Jesus spoke words in the power and authority of His Father, there was absolutely no margin for error, no faltering, no wondering. He spoke and it was done! Today, as you speak the Word in the power and authority, there is absolutely no margin for error.

When you know the written and living Word is resident within you and you speak what He directs you to speak, there will be no struggle, no striving to make something happen, and no uncertainty.

You will speak with authority in the name of Jesus and it will be done. You will not have to "pray it down" or "churn it up." You will simply speak, and it will happen. God has promised:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)

You are coming into a new position of spiritual power and authority, a new boldness, and a new fearlessness. The Word of God coming out of your mouth is piercing through the darkest satanic strongholds and clearing the pathway to your destiny.

MARCH 30
GOD'S WORDS IN YOUR MOUTH

The Word of God in your mouth is alive with the power of God. Paul said, *“For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power—making it active, operative, energizing and effective”* (Hebrews 4:12, AMP).

God is bringing you into a new dimension of authority where your words, spoken with authority and invested in the promises of God, will enable you to successfully confront and conquer every stronghold of the enemy. God’s Words in your mouth are life. As you speak the promises of God with His authority, you are speaking supernatural life into your circumstances.

You may be facing a serious physical condition such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, or a painful chronic illness. Regardless of how you may feel physically, do not fall into Satan’s trap of speaking negative words of fear, doubt, and unbelief. You cannot live by how you feel. You must live by faith. Instead of continually talking about how you feel and the doctor’s negative reports, begin to speak the Word according to God’s promises.

Speak God’s promise that, *“He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes, we are healed”* (Isaiah 53:5).

You may be facing financial problems that in the natural seem impossible. You may have a huge mountain of bills with no funds to pay them. You may not have enough income to meet the basic needs of your family. You may think you are never going to be able to get out of debt, that there is nothing you can do about your circumstances, and that you might as well give up.

You have a choice! Death and life are in the power of your tongue! Instead of speaking words of fear, discouragement, lack, and doubt concerning your finances, begin to speak forth the eternal, all-powerful, infallible, impregnable, unfailing Word of God such as *“...my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19).

Speak what God has said. Claim His promises. Spend time in God’s presence, waiting upon Him to quicken the Word to your spirit. Then speak the specific Word of God to every situation in your life, knowing it will be effective to meet every need.

In the circumstances you are facing today, are you speaking words that are based upon God’s promises or words that are based upon what you see, feel, or think?

MARCH 31 BEHIND AND BEFORE

During this past month, we have learned about hindrances that kept Israel from fulfilling their destiny. The same barriers will prevent you from entering into your own inheritance. Satan will try to...

- tempt you to murmur against God.
- cause you to rebel against God.
- create fear and unbelief by your own words.
- cause you to reject God's Word.
- cause you to reject God's will and follow your own plan.
- abort your spiritual vision and destiny as you speak negative words of defeat.

During this past month, God has brought you to a new level of spiritual knowledge regarding your tongue. You now recognize the great power of your tongue, and you have scriptural and practical strategies to control it so that you do not talk yourself into doubt, fear, and rebellion.

God has set an amazing destiny before you and is saying, "Go up and possess it!" Your spiritual destiny is in your hands. You have a choice regarding what is behind and before you...

- You can choose to obey God, control the words out of your mouth, and fulfill your destiny...
- ...or
- You can choose to rebel through the words of your own mouth and forfeit your destiny.

God brought Israel to the border of the Promised Land, but they could not enter unless they chose to advance at His command. Today, God has brought you to a new point in your spiritual destiny. He has positioned you for victory. He has delivered you out of bondage, set you free from sin, and given you power over your tongue. God has entered into an everlasting covenant with you that is sealed with the blood of Jesus. He has given you covenant promises that provide for all your needs. He has pledged Himself to be your God, to protect, prosper, and set you apart from the heathen of the earth.

Behind you is a life of struggle, failure, and defeat. Before you lies new spiritual territory:

- A place of peace and security.
- A place of blessing and provision.
- A place of power and victory.
- A place of joy and contentment.
- A place of divine destiny.

Chose to go forward! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, control your tongue, believe God's promises, obey His Word, and confess the impossible as possible. You are at the crossroads of destiny. Step on over the border and enter into all God has planned for you. Behind you lies slavery and death. Life is set before you. Choose life.