

Objective: to enable every believer to live, defeating the attack of fear and living in the blessing of faith.

06 April 2020
NLBC a.m.

The Conversation of Faith In The Time of Trial & Testing

Luke 21:25-26 NKJV says, “and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; **men's hearts failing them from fear** and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth....”

Deut. 30:20; Ps. 29:4; Num. 13:32; 14: 28-37; Deut. 32:47
says,

“They are not just idle **words** for you — **they are your life.**
By them you will **live long** in the land....”

Mt. 24:35; Mark 8:38;

John 15:7 says, “If you remain in me and **my words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.”

Introduction

Walking out of the grocery store, after having waited in a long queue, with 2 plus metres between each person...many people were wearing masks and glancing around furtively, as if a virus was about to ‘jump on them’, I heard the man next to me say in a loud voice into his phone, pressed against his ear, “I’m afraid I have some very bad news for you.... I have started developing a cold and a cough...and I don’t know what it is...”

We live, more than ever, in a 'world of words.' We get bombarded, if we choose, by the 24-hour news with all the 'words of this world's system,' about all the terrible and potentially terrible things of our world, every day, every hour. The Internet is full of the same...however, there are some internet sites that produce, from a Christian source, things that encourage.

But in the main, news programmes, are full of impending disaster, speculation about worse to come, shaming, blaming, comparing, tearing down and accusing.

Journalists have unashamedly claimed to be the 'opinion-shapers' of our time...not the word of Him who cannot lie. Because of the current crisis and 'lockdown,' we are hearing more words, usually negative, than ever in our history.

What is behind this great torrent of words?

What is behind this 'war of words?' It all started in the Garden, this 'war of words.' God's words vs Satan's words. At the first, there were only two voices in the Garden, besides Adam and Eve's voices. Believed, these external voices, released the power of life and death into the earth and it's population...the subjects, Adam and Eve, simply had to believe those words and subsequently act on them. Those 'words' became the 'truth that set them free' or the 'lies that sentenced them' to death, pain, fear and shame. It all started with the 'war of words' and today, that 'war of words' is hotter than ever.

There are two spirit-filled kingdoms—and both, are engaged or connected to, by the exercise of faith.

The spirit-realm, an invisible realm, is engaged or connected to, by the exercise of faith. God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and the Devil is a spirit. (Rev. 12:9; Hosea 4:12; 1 John 4:3,6). Both are invisible. Their power and influence, can only be engaged or accessed, by ‘believing.’ Whether you use your spirit knowingly, or ignorantly, to ‘believe’, you have entered the ‘spirit realm.’ You have invited participation with those who occupy that ‘space.’

We understand this simply in salvation. Rom. 10:8-10 reveals we: (Rom. 10:8-10 “But what does it say? “The **word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,**” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you **confess with your mouth,** “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **For it is with your heart that you believe** and are justified, and **it is with your mouth that you confess** and are saved.”

- Believe
- Speak (confess)

Thus we ‘get connected to God’ and receive His life-cleansing, lifesaving, healing touch in our lives!

God's Simple Formula

1. Read right – Josh. 1:8
2. Listen right -- John 6:68
3. Think right -- Philippians 4:8
4. Speak right John -- 12:49; Rom.10:17; 1 Thes. 2:13
5. Do right – John 2:5

If you don't read right (the Bible) and listen right (the Word spoken), you won't think right, and if you don't think right, you won't speak right. If you don't speak right, you won't do (decide) right.

It all starts with listening and reading. You are getting so many 'words per day' and what is the spirit-substance of what you are getting? Is it taking you to a place you want to go or do not want to go? Ps. 119:50.

**There are fundamentally two conversations going on in the world today—the conversation of faith in God and His Word, or the conversation of fear (a form of faith) in the Devil and his word.

God & Man in Conversation

John 6:63 says, "The words I have spoken to you are **spirit** and they are **life**." Spirit-spoken words, are 'spirit-words,' that carry the life of the One who spoke them! This world's system is designed to prevent you from reading and hearing the 'Spirit-words' that will give you the life of Heaven. It is

designed to insert into your hearing and reading, the other spirit-words that carry the fear, death, shame, and desperation. What disturbs you? If you are disturbed, (that is, you have lost your peace) then mark it down, that you are hearing and entertaining the **wrong voice!** God does not speak the 'voice of fear.' 63 times in the Authorised Version, the Bible says, "Fear not!" This is not a suggestion but a command! ***If you fear, you are listening to the wrong voice.***

Satan and Man in Conversation

Satan, a spirit, also speaks. He speaks with the 'voice of fear' by putting thoughts into your mind that are negative, doom-filled, and speculations of terrible consequences. You cannot afford to 'carry on a conversation' with him.

If you do this unwittingly, you will go where he wants to take you...down. Jer. 5:13 says, "The prophets are but wind and the word is not in them; so, let what they say be done to them."

The much-maligned saying, "What you say is what you get," wasn't often really analysed. It is actually, true. Believers believe, that if they offer prayer (words spoken) in faith, they would receive the supernatural response from Heaven. 1 John 5:14, 15.

Yet somehow, some thought, if they offered words of fear (negative faith) to the Devil, he wouldn't take advantage of that. Also, that the dishonouring of God has no consequence. Luke 1:20. Acts 5:3 NCV says, "Peter said, "Ananias, why did you let Satan rule your thoughts to lie to the Holy Spirit."

You can *join the conversation with the Spirit of Fear*. 2 Tim. 1:7 NKJV. It is a conversation that first starts in your mind/thoughts. For fear is based on a 'perceived threat.' You get some information from this world. You get some thoughts that come into your mind, from the Spirit of Fear, injecting them into your mind. You process (converse) them further and further. Soon the 'spirit of fear' has a strangle hold on your spirit and you are now locked into a battle for your life with the Devil. You have unwittingly said, on the inside, "Satan, I believe you...come and do your stuff!"

*So many today have been sucked into the 'vortex of fear' and their lives are internally devastated and their path a path to external devastation. God's people, 'drink in,' the 'spirit of faith' and live at peace, in the path of safety and blessing.

Your confession is your inheritance. Num. 14:2, 22, 23, 24, 6. Two groups, two different confessions, two different inheritances. Fear leads to negativity, which produces the 'desert.' Faith leads to positivity which leads to breakthrough and blessing! Eph. 4:29-30 says, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Matt. 17:20 says, "...if you have **faith** as small as a mustard seed, **you can say** to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." As God's people, we need to move more 'mountains' in our time. It starts with the '*internal conversation that brings faith.*'

Discerning the Conversation – Which Conversation Will I Enter?

It is vital to ‘discern’ or fully grasp the significance of what you are hearing, **before** you enter the ‘spiritual conversation,’ and set yourself on the road toward one destination or another. Job 34:2-4 says, “Hear my words, you wise men; listen to me, you men of learning. For **the ear tests words as the tongue tastes food**. Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good.” Prov. 4:5.

Mind-talk goes on all the time. Matt. 9:21. “she said to herself...” We must learn to be ‘slow to speak’ into the conversations around us...lest we release something we will regret. James 1:19.

Two fundamental questions to ask yourself are:

1. **Who** am I engaging with, in my mind-talk?
2. **What** am I saying in this internal conversation?
 - Get your shield of faith back up! Eph. 6:16. “I must stop speaking ‘rubbish,’ for it feeds the ‘virus of fear,’ into my spirit, soul, body and life -- Choose to say the following prayer of forgiveness, personally and with all others—the prayer of forgiveness.
 - Make your declarations – His Words in your mouth...Jer. 5:14; Isa. 44:26; Deut. 18:18, 19; Isa. 51:16; Isa. 59:21; Jer. 1:9
 - Speak to yourself and speak to others, what you believe, not what you may feel! 2 Cor. 4:13 says, “It is written: “I

believed; therefore, I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak...."

1. According to Ps. 91:10 NKJV, "No plague will come near my home"
2. According to Luke 10:19 "No harm will come to me!"
3. According to 1 John 1:9all my sins are forgiven as I have confessed them all!
4. According to Philippians 4:19 I have all that I need financially.
5. According to 2 Cor. 8:9 I am amply supplied to be a great blessing to many others through my generous giving!
6. According tomy words have power and authority for they are His words...Ps. 33:9; fulfils the predictions, Matt 9:8?
7. According to Isa. 61:3, "I wear the garment of praise instead of the spirit of despair."