



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

Vol. 49 No. 1

1400 Troy Road Collinsville, Illinois 62234

January 3, 2021

A Man Is Only As Good As His word

Words are wonderful things. Words can motivate someone to push further than they have ever gone. Words can cause you to smile or role your eyes in annoyance. It is strange to sit down and think about the power of words. To us sometimes they seem kind of arbitrary, common, or overused.



Yet, the foundation of any civilization, organization, or group that has ever been is, when you think about it, words. If there was no language, either oral or written, nothing would ever get done. Words are truly powerful things, they carry great weight with them and we should be aware of how we use them. "A man is as only good as his word." We have all heard this statement a thousand times and there is a reason for that. If a man is a liar, untrustworthy and never does what he says he will this man is not regarded very highly. As Christ said in Matthew 5:33-37, "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil." We quote this verse all the time in reference to our words. Christ is commanding us to not swear really by anything but live in a way where your yes is yes and your no is no. If you commit to doing something live in a way where people do not doubt that you will get it done.

James says the same thing in James 5:12, "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." This is almost exactly what Christ said back in Matthew. There should be no need for swearing, if we are people of our word and do the things that we say we will do or not do the things we say we will not do people will trust us. We see this type of behavior all the time. A child is not doing what they were told to do and the parent says, "if you do that one more time I'm going to spank you." Naturally, the kid does it again and then the parent does not spank them. The child learns from a very early age that it does not matter what the parents say they are not going to do it and they continuously push that line and test their parents to see if their father or mother will actually do what they say they promise. It has almost become socially acceptable to not do what you say. Christ says that type of character and action is unacceptable. Words are powerful because they can show who we truly are, they shape us. They show if we are an honest, trustworthy person or if we are lazy, apathetic people who will just say what people want to hear.

Our words are powerful things. As Christ taught let us be people of our word. Let us be reliable, honest and trustworthy. Let us not do as the old prophet and use our words to deceive others, but use our words and their power to praise the Lord and teach His word to others.

Renn Ferguson