

## **SPEAKING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Request:** "Recently I heard a bible teacher mention the importance of 'speaking' the word of God. He used the following three examples that caught my attention: Creation (Gen.3), Prayer (Matt.21: 20) and the Written Word of God (2 Cor.4: 13). Would you do a study using these three examples?"

Today's lesson will focus on the subject of 'speaking' the written word of God taken from 2 Cor.4: 13.

We will begin by dividing 2 Cor.4 into the following three homiletical points.

- The **treasure** (4:1-7) Preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- The **tribulation** (4:8-12) Persecuted for preaching the gospel.
- The **triumph** (4:13-18) People saved by preaching the gospel.

**Today's lesson will study SIX aspects of SPEAKING The Word Of God, taken from 2 Cor.4: 13-15.**

### **1. There are four participles that give the content of truth of Speaking the Word of God in 2 Cor.4:13-15.**

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|------------------------------------|------------|---|
| • Having (echo / p.a.ptc)          | Possession | The same spirit of faith (4:13)         |
| • Written (to grapho / perf.p.ptc) | Promise    | We believe therefore we speak (4:13)    |
| • Knowing (oida / perf.a.ptc)      | Power      | He who raised Jesus (4:14)              |
| • Spreading (pleonazo / a.a.ptc)   | People     | Grace spreading to more and more (4:15) |

### **2. Spiritual mature believers have the same spirit of faith in every generation (4:13).**

“But having the same (to auto) spirit of faith (pneuma tes pistis); according to what is written, ‘I believe (pisteuo / a.a.ind), therefore, I spoke (laleo / a.a.ind).’ We also believe (p.a.ind), therefore, also we speak (p.a.ind).” (NAS)

“Yet we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, ‘I have believed, and therefore have I spoken.’ We too believe, and therefore we speak.” (Amplified)

The same spirit of faith is the spiritual mature believer cycling the word of God through divine faith system (faith cycle).

2 Cor.4: 13 is quoted from the LXX of Ps.116: 10 – “I believe, wherefore I have spoken; but I was greatly afflicted.”

The Hebrew Bible of Ps.116: 10 says – “I believe, therefore, I said, ‘I am greatly afflicted.’”

### **3. Spiritual mature believers cycling the word of God under maximum stress are front line warriors for God to their generation.**

King David is used because of his suffering associated with Christ in the angelic conflict (Ps.116: 10).

Ps.116 is a praise of the Lord's deliverance from maximum stress related to threat of death.

What is interesting is that Ps.116 is one of the famous messianic Hallelujah Psalms (113-118). These messianic psalms were sung at Jewish festivals like Passover.

Ps.113-114 was sung before the Passover meal and Ps.115-118 was sung afterward (Matt.26:30/ Last Supper).

The point is that David as a spiritual mature believer was suffering for Christ in the angelic conflict, as are the spiritual mature believers of the church age.

**4. Believing the word of God (faith cycle) brings inner peace and stability to the soul of the spiritual mature believer under maximum stress while speaking it brings hope in God to those needing grace and mercy from a loving God.**

Completing the faith cycle stabilizes inside (the soul) under maximum stress while at the same time magnifying Christ to others outside (Gal.2: 20-21; Eph.4: 11-16; Phil.1: 19-21).

Both David and Stephen were under the maximum threat of death but with different results because of phase II in the plan of God. Listen to David's confidence in the essence of God – "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones." (Ps.116: 15) And read Stephen's (Acts 7:54-60; 9:4-5).

**5. The threat of death didn't silence the communication (laolo) or speaking of the word of God.**

David's testimony to God's faithfulness is an encouragement to other spiritual mature believers.

Where did David's confidence come from to disregard his own well being for the cause of Christ? Paul tells us in 2 Cor.4:14 – "knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you."

David had confidence in the promise of the word of God regarding the resurrection of the just. He had the testimony of spiritual mature Abraham who did this when offering Isaac (Gen.22; Heb.11:17-19).

For the church age believer, this is relying on the indwelling ministry of Holy Spirit – "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you." (Rom.8:11) (1 Cor.6:14-20)

**6. Speaking the word of God has a different effect on unbeliever than on believers (2 Tim.3:15-16).**

**Unbeliever**

- Reject (Acts 7:54-58)
- Believe (Acts 8:35-38)

**Believer**

- Teaching
- Rebuke
- Correction
- Training in Righteousness (+R)