

# Wonder Working Words

*“How You May Speak...  
As the Oracles of God!”*

By Rev. Joseph Kostelnik, Ph.D.

*Wonder Working Words*

**Wonder Working Words**

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*Wonder Working Words*

## ***Words, Words, Words...***

***I***n the beginning was the Word...” (Jn. 1:1).

It is probably not possible to overemphasize the importance of words in our lives. The Son of God, Himself, is described as the “Word.” This is “logos” in Greek. Jesus is the “Logos,” the Living Word.

The scriptures go on to speak of themselves as the written Word, the *Graphē* in Greek.

And the apostle Paul gives us the additional revelation that the Holy Spirit—our Sword in spiritual combat—is the “Spoken Word” or *Rheema* in Greek (Eph. 6:17, Gk.).

Words are of Divine importance, both for time and eternity.

Speaking of the written Word, the psalmist declares:

*“...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name” (Psa. 138:2).*

*“Forever, O Yahweh, thy word is being settled in the heavens” (Psa. 119:89, Heb.).*

Our Savior said nearly the identical thing regarding the trustworthiness of the infallible Word:

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*“But it is easier for the heaven and the earth to pass, than one tittle of the Law to fail” (Lk. 16:17, Gk.).*

The word rendered *tittle* (kerehan, Gk.), refers to “a minute projection, distinguishing two Hebrew letters (Newberry).”

God is jealous of His Word, whether Living, written or spoken. According to the prophet Jeremiah:

*“I-I am continually watching over my word to perform it” (Jer. 1:12, Heb.).*

This Word is eternal, inerrant and infallible. Paul said:

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God” (II Tim. 3:16).*

The phrase translated “inspiration of God” is, literally, “God-breathed.”

The Word, alone, gives us an accurate picture of spiritual and natural reality. All else is fallen, finite and subject to change.

What are we trusting?

On what are we building our lives: the Word of the Lord or the shifting sands of man?

### **The Living Word**

*“For the word (logos, Gk.) of the (one, true) God is constantly living and effectual, and sharper than every two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing asunder both of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And neither is there any creature not manifest in **his sight** (before him, Gk.): But all things are naked and laid bare unto the eyes of **him** with whom we have to do” (Heb. 4:12-13, Gk.).*

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Here is a description of the searching, penetrating gaze of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus.

Are our lives fully surrendered in obedience to Him?

Remember, it is not the one who simply hears the pronouncements of the Son of God whose life will stand amidst the pressures of the storms of life, but the one who hears and **obeys** them (Mt. 7:24ff.).

Whose word has the final authority in our lives?

### **The Written Word**

And then there is the question of which words we shall allow to shape our thinking, believing and obeying: God's or man's.

All of us—whether we're aware of it or not—have a “world view.” We all possess a standard by which we make decisions and upon which we build our lives. The question is not, “*Do we live by words?*” but “*By whose words do we live?*”

There is only one light, only one lamp that is worthy of our eternal allegiance. There is only one sure standard by which we can measure ourselves and others: the Bible. It, alone, came supernaturally from the Mouth of God.

*“For the prophecy was not borne at any time by the will of man: but the holy men of God spake being continually borne along by the Holy Spirit” (II Pet. 1:21, Gk.).*

Could anything be clearer?

No wonder the psalmist exclaimed:

*“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psa. 119:105).*

Job, speaking prophetically in what is probably the oldest book in the Bible declared:

*“I have treasured up the sayings of his mouth more than my appointed portion” (Job 23:12, Heb.).*

If our lives seem out of order perhaps we have allowed the conflicting and confusing ideas of men to usurp the place which God’s Word alone should occupy.

### **The Spoken Word**

*“So then the faith by hearing, and the hearing by God’s spoken word (rheema, Gk.)” (Rom. 10:17, Gk.).*

Here we see yet a third dimension of the Word of the Lord: the Spoken Word. Although the two Greek words often rendered as “word”—*logos* and *rheema*—are frequently used interchangeably in the New Testament, there is sometimes a slight shade of meaning intended by the use of *rheema*. In some verses, such as Eph. 6:17, it has been variously translated: “saying,” “message,” “voice” or “utterance.” The idea is a dynamic, creative expression of the Divine.

In Paul’s Greek text of Eph. 6:17, the apostle actually equates the Holy Spirit with the “Rheema.”

*“For your sword, take God’s Spirit, which is his word (rheema, Gk.)” (Eph. 6:17, Laubach).*

This is substantiated by a number of other verses. The Holy Spirit—God’s Voice—is the creative Power of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit was the means by which God created the world.

*“Through faith we understand that the ages stand framed by God’s spoken word (rheema), so that the things which are being*

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*seen were not made out of things appearing” (Heb. 11:3, Gk.).*

Not only did God create by His “Spoken Word” (Holy Spirit), but He sustains His creation in the same manner.

*“Who (Jesus) being the brightness of his glory, and the exact image of his person (subsistence), and upholding (sustaining) all things by the spoken word (rheema) of his power” (Heb. 1:3, Gk.).*

Isn't that something?

God created and sustains all things by the Power of His Spirit!

The psalmist declared this by prophetic inspiration:

*“By the word of Yahweh were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the Spirit of his power” (Psa. 33:6, Heb.).*

*“For he-**he** spake and it was; he commanded and it stood fast” (Psa. 33:8, Heb.).*

Isn't it incredible to try and comprehend the awesome power of our Almighty God's Words?!

His Word creates.

His Word sustains.

And His Word can re-create.

Again, the psalmist received revelation knowledge concerning this process:

*“Thou sendest forth **thy Spirit**, they are created: and thou **renewest** the face of the ground” (Psa. 104:30, Heb.).*

Notice how the Spirit of the Lord is again linked with creation

and also, here, with re-creation.

This reminds us of the Book of Genesis and the original creation.

*“In the beginning God (the Trinity) created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).*

However, verse two says:

*“And the earth was (became, Heb.) without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep” (Gen. 1:2, Heb.).*

We know God does not create things in a darkened, confused state. Isaiah uses these exact Hebrew words (“without form” and “void”) in his prophecy:

*“For thus saith Yahweh that is creating the heavens; the (triune) God himself that is forming the earth and making it; he established it, he created it **not in vain**, he formed it to be inhabited” (Isa. 45:18, Heb.).*

Notice the picturesque language of the Holy Spirit as He describes the creation scene in the present tense, giving His readers a graphic understanding of the situation; after all, He should know: *He was there!*

The idea is—according to many Bible scholars—between Gen. 1:1 and 1:2 the creation *became* confused and chaotic (see Pember’s *Earth’s Earliest Ages*). We know from the apostle James who the author of evil and chaos is: Satan (Ja. 3:15-16).

Comparing the words of the psalmist and Isaiah with the report in Genesis 1:1ff., it would appear that God’s original intention was good and righteous and perfect (Gen. 1:1). However, into this Divine plan the work of the enemy was introduced in an attempt to thwart it. It is here that the Power of God’s “Spoken Word,” the Holy Spirit, is introduced to bring

about re-creation.

*“And darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** is fluttering upon the face of the waters. And the (triune) God said, ‘let there be light:’ and there was light” (Gen. 1:2-3, Heb.).*

Notice the sequence carefully. First, God’s perfect creation.

Next, the devil’s work of chaos, confusion and darkness.

Then, the moving of the Spirit of the Lord (Psa. 104:30).

Finally, the Voice of God bringing Light into the darkness, establishing a renewed creation.

### **Divine Alchemy**

During the Middle Ages there existed a type of pseudo-science that purported to change base metals into precious ones (i. e., lead into gold).

Whether or not alchemy ever existed, God has His own method of supernatural science. He is capable—by His Spirit and Word—of bringing good out of evil. The apostle Paul gives us the New Testament counterpart of this in the Book of Romans:

*“And likewise the Spirit jointly-helps the infirmities—ours—for we know not what we should be praying for according as we ought: but **the Spirit himself** maketh intercession for us with groanings unutterable. And he, the one who is constantly searching the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the spirit, which he is making intercession for the saints according to God” (Rom. 8:26-27, Gk.).*

The Amplified translation of the next verse is striking:

*“We are assured and know that [**God being a partner in their***

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***labor*** *] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [his] design and purpose” (Rom. 8:28, Amplified Bible).*

No wonder Paul goes on to describe the myriad of difficulties the devil and living in a fallen world can bring into our lives and yet triumphantly declares:

*“Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through him who loved us” (Rom. 8:37, Amplified Bible).*

This is Divine Alchemy. This is bringing about a supernatural restoration. This is overcoming evil with good.

God’s Word creates.

God’s Word substantiates (sustains).

God’s Word re-creates!

### **Personal Program**

If you can grasp what we’ve said, you have just been given the key to bringing the Lord’s best into the devil’s worst in your life.

Understand that the plan, purpose and provision of God for your life is *good*.

However, into that Divine plan the devil will often attempt to introduce chaos, confusion, sin, darkness and evil. But never forget that our God is loving enough and powerful enough to change things—for the good—by His Spirit and His Word: *if we let Him*.

Commit yourself completely in loving abandon to the Living Word, the Lord Jesus, in living faith.

Devote yourself—unreservedly—to the principles of the written Word, the Holy Bible, making it the sole rule of your faith and practice.

Yield yourself to the “Spoken Word,” the Holy Spirit, through private prayer *in the Spirit* (other tongues) and public prophetic proclamations of faith in your situation. Allow God to bring light into your darkness. Let the renewing, recreating process begin.

### **Peter’s Procedure**

There is a beautiful example of this process in the Book of Acts.

It seems there was a young lady named Dorcas who was ministering in the Early Church at Joppa. Undoubtedly, she was what we commonly term today a deaconess.

*“This woman was continually full of good works and almsdeeds which she was continually doing” (Acts 9:36, Gk.).*

Notice the Divine plan, purpose and provision. Dorcas was a disciple, not a convert. She had a life style of Christian love and compassion that manifested in good deeds partaken of by the needy within the church family.

However—just as in creation—the devil interfered with his work of sickness and premature death and destruction. Dorcas was cut off in the midst of her years.

*“And it came to pass in the days—those—that she, having become sick, died” (Acts 9:37, Gk.).*

To the natural mind and man death is the end.

What has died in your life?

A marriage?

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A ministry?

A dream?

Can you allow the Holy Spirit to inspire faith in your heart for a renewal, a re-creation, *a resurrection*?

Our God is blessedly able!

Since Joppa was near Lydda (where Peter was staying), the disciples called upon the apostle to intervene and overrule the work of the enemy.

*“But Peter, having put them all forth, and having kneeled down, prayed; and having turned to the body said, ‘Tabitha, arise.’ And she opened the eyes—hers—: and having seen Peter, she sat up” (Acts 9:40, Gk.).*

Notice the parallel to the Genesis account.

“In the beginning,” a beautiful scene: God’s ministry through a young lady.

Into this Divine determination, the work of the enemy is introduced bringing darkness, destruction and death.

Just here, the Holy Spirit is allowed to enter into the situation. Just as surely as the Spirit of the Lord “fluttered over the chaotic waters” of God’s original creation, so, too, the blessed Spirit of God—through Peter’s prayers—was enabled to move upon this dark situation.

Out of the initial chaos the Voice of God spoke: “Light, be!” And it was.

Here, the Voice of God—through a man—spoke:

“Tabitha, arise!” And she did!

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Lo, there was a renewing, a restoration, a resurrection of ministry!

Are *you* beginning to catch a glimpse of the possibilities which are ours in Christ Jesus through the Power of God's "Spoken Word" (Spirit)?

Are *you* willing to devote yourself to Him in living faith and obedience in order to bring about the Divine ideal?

With *your* cooperation, God's will can truly be done *in earth, as it is in heaven.*

### **Spiritual Motivation**

Words are transmitters of spiritual life: either holy or unholy. They can be used to accomplish things, either for God or Satan. They can bring forth either life or death. It all depends upon the motivation behind them.

It's no secret that "Job's Comforters" hurt him deeply with words. No doubt they begat a lot of children in the light of the proliferation of ungodly counsel still being offered to suffering saints today! As a pastor, through counseling, I've had to "pour in the oil and the wine" to many a hurting heart wounded by the unkind or unfeeling words of ill-equipped "counselors."

Job asked an interesting question in this light:

*"To whom hast thou uttered words? And whose spirit came from thee" (Job 26: 4)?*

Perhaps all believers could do a lot worse than to "mind their mouths" and ponder their response before offering words of "wisdom" to those suffering or in need. Let's be sure it is the Holy Spirit Who is speaking through us words of life, health, peace and redemption.

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On the positive side, God, Himself, can Author the pronouncements proceeding from our lips: *if we let Him.*

## ***Anointed Affirmations***

“**[A**nd I pray] that the participation in and sharing of your faith may produce and promote full recognition and appreciation and understanding and precise knowledge of every good [thing] that is ours in [identification with] Christ Jesus [and unto his glory]” (Phm. 6, Amplified Bible).

This verse is sound advice for every believer in Jesus Christ.

Paul’s words to his friend and convert, Philemon, can and should be received, believed and acted upon by us. His advice amounts to this:

*“Get intimately acquainted with who you are in Christ Jesus...and talk about it!”*

*“That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus” (Phm. 6).*

The word rendered “acknowledging” comes from an interesting Greek word, “epeginosee.” It means “full, complete knowledge.” In other words, we are to fully understand all of the “good things” God has placed inside of us “in Christ.” Only in this way can the “communication of our faith” or the sharing of our Christian lives and testimony become truly effective to others.

## **Wounded By Words**

I'm not entirely sure, but I think it was when I was about three or four years old, that I was made fun of regarding athletic endeavors. It seemed I was always the last one chosen for the team, whether it was a sandlot baseball game or a backyard football game.

Negative, critical words from peers snuffed out any budding confidence in my young heart. Soon, I began sidestepping any sports-related interaction at all. As I grew older, I now lacked any real knowledge of the rules of the various games, making it even more difficult to enter into competition or participation: even if I desired it. I had entered a vicious cycle.

As we have seen, words—our words—can be carriers of either life or death, help or hurt. I remember talking the situation over with an older “significant other” at the time. Their response was, “*Well, some children are good at sports, others are good at art, writing, etc.*” Needless to say, this was the last thing I wanted or needed to hear at the time. It effectively closed the curtain on any athletic performances for years to come.

## **Confident Coaxing**

The same vehicle—words—that can hinder one's development can also help it. How amazed I was to hear I was a “natural” in an eighth-grade martial arts class, from an ex-marine.

Again, years later, how it astounded me to be asked about competing in local martial arts tournaments. I had no interest; but just to be asked was beyond my comprehension. I remember after earning my “red belt,” my instructor asked about my holding a “branch class” for him at the church I was pastoring. And what a thrill to have him sign his name over both sides of the broken concrete block when I passed my black belt test.

Did I suddenly develop coordination and athletic ability in my

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30's?! Or did someone see something in me neither I nor my earlier peers had seen?

### **Inside Out**

What makes you “tick?”

What “good things” are locked away inside of you just waiting for the Spirit of God to breathe life into them?

What “acres of diamonds” are in your personal “field?”

Have the flowers of inspiration been trampled out by the unkind, ill-timed or unthinking words of others?

May God, Himself, bring persons of true spirituality into your life situation with words of encouragement, life and health.

How we all need “cheerleaders,” people who honestly believe “we can do it” *and say so*.

The good things in our lives which were placed there by God to be shared with others won't materialize from out of the blue. They are already inside us, waiting for us to recognize them, affirm them and then share them with others. God always works from the inside out.

*“For it is the (one, true) God, the one who is constantly, effectively working **in you** both the willing and the doing of the good pleasure: his” (Phil. 2:13, Gk.).*

God is working it in; we must work it out! There is much more to you than meets the eye. Let God bring it out.

### **Affirmative Action**

We can begin the up building and outgoing of our personalities. While the words of others can be invaluable, our

own are incalculable.

To understand who one really is and then to consistently, confidently, *say so*, is real “affirmative action.”

Our Christian lives begin with the “Great Confession” of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior (Rom. 10:9-10).

In order to become successful in life we must go on to believe, receive and *affirm* all of the other new creation realities which the Bible declares concerning us. This is a Bible pattern. “*Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!*”

Peter, Paul, James, Jude, John and others who were used of the Lord to give us the New Testament all made a practice of affirming—publicly—who they were “in Christ.” They boldly declared that they were: apostles, elders, servants, teachers, etc. Paul boasted about what the Lord had accomplished through his yielded life (Rom. 15:18-19).

In my discipleship lesson, “*The Right Foundation*,” in my course, *Diploma in Discipleship*, I list some 30 “in Christ realities,” which I encourage the reader to read, believe, receive and *affirm* on a daily basis.

Why?

Words carry either life or death.

Words—and the spirit and reality they portray—can either kill or cure, hurt or heal, sear or soothe.

Words—believed and affirmed—influence our thinking. Our thinking influences our acting. Our acting builds or destroys our lives.

Words can transmit truth or error, reality or fantasy, the Word of God or the lie of Satan.

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Whom do you want to direct your life? God or Satan?

Christ or antichrist?

The Holy Spirit or the unholy spirit?

**Spiritual Scrutiny**

Why not begin the adventure of finding out who you really are, “in Christ?”

Why not begin to really take stock—to become familiar with—all of the natural and supernatural gifts, talents and abilities lying dormant, resident within you?

As you study the New Testament, especially the epistles, and discover what the Truth is about you as a son, servant and soldier of God, as you surrender your Christian life unconditionally to God for His will to be done in it, thereby releasing those gifts and graces (Rom. 12:1-10), begin to publicly affirm them: to yourself and others.

If you are redeemed, say so.

If you are born again, say so.

If you are a child of God, a partaker of the Divine Nature, say so.

If you are a member of the Body of Christ, say so.

If you are a God-called apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher or deacon, say so.

If you are indwelt by, filled and anointed with, the Power of the Holy Spirit, say so.

If the “old you” was crucified and buried with Christ and the

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“new you” is “of God” and walking in newness of life, say so.

In order to find success in life, bring glory to God and help to the hurting, you must first acknowledge who and what you are in the Lord. Certainly, without God you can do nothing, but without you He chooses to do nothing!

Begin today to affirm the powerful truth of God’s words concerning you!

## ***Creative Confessions***

“**W**hosoever sins ye remit, there are being remitted unto them; and whosoever’s ye are retaining, they stand retained” (Jn. 20:23, Gk.).

*“I’ve done everything I can think of; I’ve repented, I’ve fasted; I’ve prayed: I just can’t receive forgiveness.”*

This confession came from the lips of a man who answered my altar call at a small, denominational, full gospel church many years ago when I was evangelizing.

His countenance was crestfallen. He was struggling beneath the weight of un-forgiven sin. He had known the Lord at one time. However, the pressures of the world, the flesh and the devil had somehow gotten the upper hand. In a short time, he was overcome; he had returned to his former, ungodly life style. Here he was before me, seeking deliverance and a return to the spiritual life he’d once known.

What was I, as a visiting evangelist, to do?

I was praying quietly, seeking a word of wisdom.

*“Is Jesus the Lord of your life?”* I asked.

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*“Oh, yes,” he replied with tears.*

*“And you’ve confessed your sin and waywardness?” I pressed.*

*“Yes, over and over,” he replied.*

*“Then, according to His Word, He’s forgiven you,” I affirmed.*

*“I know,” he said with a dark cloud covering his face. “But I don’t experience forgiveness.”*

I placed one hand on each shoulder. Suddenly I said, *“Your sins are forgiven.”*

In a moment, the dark cloud lifted, his hands shot up into the air and he began to praise God: *loudly*. He had been waiting several years for a job that took several seconds.

What made the difference?

I simply—under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit—spoke the Word.

The Power of God did the rest.

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I could relate hundreds of similar incidents. It is difficult for us to realize that God has given this power unto men (Jn. 20:22-23). We who know Christ in living faith are to serve as His representatives. We are to be His mouthpieces. Believers are reservoirs of the Anointing. Our God is walking and talking on the inside of us (II Cor. 6:16). It’s amazing, but true nonetheless.

God’s words, spoken by us in faith, can have supernatural results for His glory.

Not long ago, I was preaching in the North of Australia. There were a number of aboriginal people from the islands present. I was made to know many of them who had left their unbelieving backgrounds feared reprisals from their former friends and family members. “Pointing the bone” is a common practice often resulting in death.

As I ministered the Word, the words I spoke regarding their freedom and deliverance from their past and from all the power of the enemy (Col. 1:12-14; Lk. 10:19) set them free. Several began to “fall under the power” at a distance. There was great rejoicing in the camp.

Certainly, the Lord has fought and won the battle for all mankind 2,000 years ago in the Cross of Christ (Col. 2:15), but how will needy humanity benefit *if they never hear of it* (Rom. 10:14)?

### **The Great Confession**

Our Christian lives begin with our believing the gospel and *confessing with our mouths* Jesus as our Lord (Rom. 10:9-10).

Jesus, not an idol or false religion, is the High Priest of *our* confession (Hob. 3:1). He is *our* Lord. As we are faithful to *confess* Him *publicly* before men, He will be faithful to acknowledge us as His own before the Father and His angels (Mt. 10:32).

Not only should we affirm who and what we are “in Christ,” but we should allow the Lord to speak through us to others for their good, His glory and our fulfillment as servants of God.

### **Types of Talk**

It is interesting to study the scriptures in this regard. We find a number of ways we can allow the Lord to superintend our speech so that we may become a “tree of life” to others.

One primary way to be used to bless others is by common, ordinary speech.

*“Go, stand and **speak** in the temple to the people all the words of this life” (Acts 5:20).*

This is the common, Greek word for speech. This same verb is used of Stephen when, *“they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke” (Acts 6:10).*

This is not evangelizing, teaching or preaching; it is simple, everyday speech: empowered by the Spirit of God!

### **Supernatural Speech**

On the Day of Pentecost, when the 120 first received God’s “Spoken Word” or “Voice,” the Holy Spirit, Himself, the Bible says they:

*“Began to speak with other tongues, according as the Spirit was giving them **utterance**” (Acts 2:4, Gk.).*

The word rendered “utterance” here is an unusual one from which we derive our English word, “apothegm.” This means a short, terse, pithy or pointed saying. In other words, the power to make “prophetic pronouncements.” This is just what Joel prophesied, which, according to Peter, was fulfilled in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:16ff.).

Another fascinating fact in this regard is this:

The same apostle Peter who spoke “with other tongues,” supernaturally—as the Spirit gave him *utterance*—also spoke with supernatural power in *his native tongue*, Hebrew. After praying and praising in “other tongues,” the apostle then preached to the “devout Jews” gathered in Jerusalem in their mother tongue, Hebrew, which they all spoke in addition to their various “second languages.”

### *Creative Confessions*

*“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and **said** unto them” (Acts 2:14).*

This is a form of the same unusual word translated “utterance” in Acts 2:4!

We have the blessed opportunity of ministering forth His wisdom, grace and power either in supernatural prayer and praise or in common conversation.

Not everyone in the Body of Christ is gifted to evangelize, preach or teach the Word; but we can all talk!

### **Ministerial Might**

As you can imagine, there is certainly a place for the Lord to put His anointing upon His servants as they speak forth the Word of God.

Many different Greek nouns and synonyms are used to designate the respective ministries of: preaching, teaching, evangelizing and reasoning.

How it behooves all those whom God has apprehended for full time service to seek His face in secret prayer that they might be voices and not echoes, ministering messages and not sermons.

This type of ministry will call forth the Lord’s own confirmation.

*“And they-**they** having gone forth, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs, the ones following” (Mk. 16:20, Gk.).*

### **Tongues Tamed**

James reminds us to “mind our mouths” and bless others rather than curse them (Ja. 3:10). Paul, likewise, speaks of our

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“grieving the Holy Spirit” by the utterance of unsanctified speech (Eph. 4:30).

Isaiah prophesied of the Lord Jesus:

*“Adonai Yahweh hath given me the tongue of the learned ones, that I should know how to speak a word in season to the weary” (Isa. 50:4, Heb.).*

Certainly, all those who name of Name of this Savior in faith should aim to “follow in His steps.”

What a privilege! What a responsibility? What an opportunity to be used of the Lord!

### **Printed Preaching**

I’m thinking of a letter I received from a Spirit-filled saint from another country and continent, which contained a prophetic word that served as “manna” to me for weeks. It was truly a word “in season” to a weary preacher!

I began writing in 1981. I have since written about 30 books, including a ministerial training course. No doubt, thousands of copies are in print in many different nations. There are also foreign language editions published or in process of production. I may leave after a short-term mission trip, *but my books stay*. Through the printed page I can continue to minister “long distance!” HalleluYah!

### **Mysterious Ways**

The old hymn says, *“God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.”* This is true of the power of print when dedicated to His glory.

If my memory serves me, I received a letter from a brother in Holland several years ago, requesting one of my books. It seems

someone had purchased a copy in England and brought it to the Holy Land. Somehow, from there it made its way to Holland. Some of the brethren were so taken with it there that they photocopied it. This brother then wrote to request a new original. When I sent the book, I mentioned in passing that I was a missionary-evangelist in addition to being a pastor and would be willing to come to Holland if there were an interest in my ministry.

The brother turned out to be a pastor affiliated with the most influential full-gospel movement in the Netherlands! I have since ministered throughout Holland and Belgium at their invitation, have had articles and book excerpts translated and published in their magazine (circulation @ 100,000) and their ministry is currently translating that book into Dutch!

Words are powerful!

As I write these lines, plans are underway to use my book, ***The Perfect Weapon***, as a fundraiser for a major crusade in Haiti.

Praise God!

*Wonder Working Words*

## ***Dynamic Decrees***

“**W**here the word of a king is, there is authority” (Eccl. 8:4, Heb.).

The Bible describes a number of different positions we hold as children of God.

“*And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father*” (Rev. 1:6).

As *priests*, we can represent men before God in prayer and intercession (I Tim. 2:1).

As *kings*, we can represent God before men, speaking prophetically for Him as His ambassadors. Few believers seem willing or able to enter into this dimension of Christian living.

As Solomon says in the verse with which we began this chapter, a king’s pronouncements have great power. They either forbid or allow certain courses of action in his realm.

### **Keys of the Kingdom**

This principle comes into play when we consider the Master’s words to Peter:

*“And I-I say also unto thee, that thou-**thou** art Peter, and upon the Rock—this one—I will build the Church—mine—; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18, Gk.).*

How could the Lord Jesus make such a bold and confident statement concerning the Church’s invincibility as it waged its onslaught against Satan’s kingdom?

How is it that the gates of the kingdom of darkness would be unable to remain locked in the light of the advancing of the Church?

*“And I will give unto thee the **keys of the Kingdom of the heavens**: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens” (Mt. 16:19, Gk.).*

For every one of the devil’s “locks” there is a Divine “key!”

Over five years ago, while praying in the auditorium of the church I was serving as pastor then, I was asking the Lord about this principle. The Spirit spoke to my heart:

*“The ‘keys of the Kingdom’ are the gifts of the Spirit.”*

Certainly, this promise was made to Peter (i.e., *thee* not *ye*) and apostolic ministry obviously entails taking new ground from the enemy in ministry. However, a similar promise is made to all believers two chapters later in Matthew’s gospel (Mt. 18:18ff.), thus opening the door for every Christian to be so used at the Lord’s discretion.

### **Three-fold Anointing**

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit given to the obedient child of God actually functions in a triune way. It is a priestly, prophetic and kingly anointing.

## *Dynamic Decrees*

The *priestly* anointing involves the gifts of revelation (word of wisdom, word of knowledge and discernment of spirits).

The *prophetic* anointing involves the gifts of prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues.

The *kingly* anointing requires the gifts of faith, working of miracles and the gifts of healings.

According to Jesus, if we receive the gift of faith in prayer, we can then act as *kings* and “decree a thing,” even moving mountains of resistance out of our way (Mk. 11:22f.).

It is wonderful and necessary to receive a supernatural inspiration to pray through a word of wisdom or knowledge, but it is equally exciting to speak the word and boldly announce God’s provision for the need.

### **Paul’s Program**

The Early Church functioned in this way. We don’t see “prayer lines” in the Book of Acts; rather, they had “healing lines.” There is a difference. This is not to say that the early disciples didn’t pray—they did—but, rather, most of their praying took place privately and their public ministry consisted of speaking the Word, prophetically.

Consider Paul who, looking at a crippled man, “*said with the voice—a loud one—’Stand upright on the feet: yours’*” (Acts 14:10).

The result?

*“And he was leaping and walking” (Acts 14:10, Gk.).*

Yes, Paul prayed—privately—speaking “ten thousand words in tongues” (I Cor. 14:18), but then allowed the Lord to speak through him words of faith to those in need.

### **Peter's Practice**

Again, we read of Peter's custom of ministry in the Book of Acts. Just prior to speaking the Word to Tabitha, the Bible describes his words to a crippled man who had never walked thusly:

*"Aeneas, Jesus the Christ healeth thee now" (Acts 9:34, Gk.).*

The result of the miracle?

*"And all the ones dwelling at Lydda and Sharon saw him, who turned to the Lord" (Acts 9:35, Gk.).*

We have already mentioned a similar ministry of Peter to Tabitha. He prayed first; then he said (Acts 9:40).

The result of this miracle?

*"And it became known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the lord" (Acts 9:42, Gk.).*

Can you imagine what the Lord can accomplish through those of us who are willing to allow His Word to flow through us?

### **Kingly Commands**

I have seen this principle manifested in my own life and ministry hundreds of times over the past 30 years.

- In Amelia, Ohio, I said to a woman smitten with a disease which caused her to become bald, *"Let there be new hair."* Six weeks later she phoned me to say she had over an inch of new growth all over her head.
- In Athens, Greece I spoke to a couple unable to conceive children, *"Let there be a conception."* They have several "miracle children" today.

*Dynamic Decrees*

- In Haiti, I spoke to the rain before thousands of people gathered for the crusade service, “*No more rain ‘til the end of the service.*” It stopped instantly.
- In Cairns, Australia, I said to an elderly lady who had been stone blind for over eight years, “*Let there be sight.*” She was instantly healed and ran all over the platform praising God.
- In Paris, France I spoke to a deformed ankle bone, “*Become normal.*” It was and the lady cancelled a trip to Dakar, Africa for an operation.
- In a small suburb of Brussels I spoke to a young man with a bad ankle, “*Kneel down.*” He obeyed the word and rose up healed.
- In Gladstone, Australia, I said to a young man who had passed away during the service, “*Let there be life. Let there be a manifestation of abundant life for spirit, soul and body.*” He coughed, then laughed, then praised the Lord.

Isn't it something what our God's Words can do through us when spoken in faith?

What situation in *your* life needs changed?

What “doors” of opportunity seem stubbornly “locked?”

May I remind you of the One Who said:

*“These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he, the one having ‘the key of David,’ he, the one ‘opening and no one shutteth; and shutteth, and no one openeth’“ (Rev. 3:7, Gk.).*

He, alone, has “all authority” (Mt. 28:18).

*Wonder Working Words*

By His Spirit, through His gifts, by His Word, Jesus Christ  
can overcome all the work of the enemy in your life.

Will you let Him?

## ***The Wonderful Word***

“**S**o the word of the Lord was continually growing mightily and continually prevailing” (Acts 19:20, Gk.).

It is impossible to accurately estimate the power of God’s Word.

- It is incorruptible seed (I Pet. 1:23).
- It is a hammer (Jer. 23:29).
- It is a sword (Eph. 6:17, Gk.).
- It is a fire (Jer. 23:29).
- It is Living (Jn. 1:1); Written (II Tim. 3:16); and Spoken (Eph. 6:17, Gk.).
- It creates (Heb. 11:3), sustains (Heb. 1:3) and re-creates (Psa. 104:30).

Scientists tell us matter cannot be (naturally) created or destroyed. In addition, we are told that which we consider solid is actually moving matter/energy *captured*. We can see how all of this is subject to change! Our God holds it all together with His Spirit (Heb. 1:3)! At His discretion, it can be changed by that same Spirit! HalleluYah!

You can become a partner with God in changing things for His glory. Allow God’s *wonder-working words* to begin to work through you *today*!

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## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR...**

**D**r. Joseph Kostelnik is founder and president of Gospel Truth Ministries, an apostolic ministry with a three-fold vision: a local church (**White Oak Chapel**), training up and sending out of ministers of the Word (**The Prophetic Voice Institute**), and short-term mission trips to foreign fields as God leads.

He holds a B.A. from Point Park University, an M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary, a Th.D. and Ph.D. from International Seminary, an honorary D.D. from Kingsway Christian College & Theological Seminary and an honorary Litt.D. from International Seminary.

He has served as: pastor, assistant pastor, evangelist, Bible teacher, missionary, author, educator, and media minister. He has ministered in the United States as well as overseas, including: England, Scotland, Australia, France, Greece, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Crete, Haiti and New Zealand and his ministry is marked by the miraculous.

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***WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS MINISTRY..***

"Dr. Kostelnik's book ***The Lord Jesus: the Christ*** is one of the most edifying and uplifting books I've ever read...and working with Dr. Cerullo, I've read a lot of good books." - **Ruth Meadows, European director, Morris Cerullo World Evangelism**

"To know Joe is to know he is an anointed minister of the gospel, striving to hear and do as the Holy Spirit directs. His revelations on women in ministry have surely been directed of God." - **Mary Laird, station manager, Trinity Broadcasting Network**

"His anointed teaching has inspired me and many others in Australia; after having Dr. Kostelnik minister in our church and in a citywide crusade, I recommend that you acquire more of this Divinely inspired material through which you will undoubtedly be blessed also." - **Rev. Merv Westbrook, Outback Evangelism, (Darwin, Australia)**

"I appreciate Joe's books, teaching and great evangelistic ministry; he has a unique combination of intellectual and educational depth, strict scriptural adherence and outstanding preaching ability." - **Rev. Dick Taylor, founder & president FOCAS, (Cincinnati, Ohio)**

"We recommend Dr. Kostelnik and his ministry highly, he has been a great blessing in all of our churches in Holland and Belgium, with many saved, healed and filled with the Holy Spirit. We have published his articles in our magazine and are busy translating ***Prayer in the Spirit: The Missing Link***, into Dutch." - **Gerie van der Dussen, secretary, Maasbach World Mission (Holland)**

"Now that we have translated your book on ministry into Greek, we can start on your others; the people here desperately need this anointed ministry." - **Rev. D. Jimmy Zachariou, Assemblies Of God, (Athens, Greece)**

"Brother Joe has a real touch of God on his ministry. We saw this in Haiti in great outdoor mass crusades... many were saved, healed, baptized in the Holy Ghost and delivered! We are very anxious for his next crusades here." - **Bishop Octamoliere Liberius (Port-au-Prince, Haiti, W.I.)**

"Love, truth and compassion are what I sense after seeing the Lord Jesus glorified through the ministry of Brother Kostelnik." - **Xavier Mainguy, deacon, New Life Church (Paris, France)**

"Through the revelation of the Spirit and also the manifestation of God's Power to His children through him, I believe Dr. Kostelnik is qualified to tell God's people that signs, wonders and miracles are for the Body of Christ today." (from the foreword to ***Miracles and the Ministry***) - **the late Rev. Dr. Brian Graham, pastor-evangelist (Darlington, England)**