

FAITH WORDS

In the midst of your greatest battle, use words to express your complete faith and trust in God.

KEY POINTS

- ▶ None of us has ever faced a situation like the one Abraham faced in Genesis 22:1-8. He heard the voice of God telling him to kill his son, his “only son Isaac”, as God referred to him, and offer him as a burnt offering on Mount Moriah.
- ▶ As crazy, revolting and abhorrent as this sounds, Abraham knew he had heard from God!
- ▶ He arose the next morning to set about obeying the word of the Lord, and he declared that he was about to engage in an act of worship. “... The lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you” (v.5).
- ▶ These are the words of a man who had complete faith in God in the midst of the greatest trial of his life. This is a phenomenal example to emulate.
- ▶ We need to speak words of worship all the way through our greatest trials!
- ▶ Part of the reason for Abraham’s worship words was the fact that he knew “God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering” (v.22). That’s faith! And even though he knew the lamb was going to be none other than his own son, he was confident that “... God was able to raise him up, even from the dead...” (Hebrews 11:19a).
- ▶ Speak faith-filled words in the midst of the storm.
- ▶ We have often read the account of David facing Goliath with nothing but a shepherd’s staff, five stones and a sling. After Goliath had cursed him and promised to feed his flesh to the birds (which he was totally capable of doing), David responded with these words in 1 Samuel 17:45-47:

You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts...for the battle is the LORD’S, and He will give you into our hands.
- ▶ It’s one thing to say big brave words when you have an army backing you up, but when you see a virtually unarmed teenager up against a well-armed gladiator, the teen cannot afford to use cheap words. They have to come from a wellspring of faith in a God who is omnipotent. He gave his victory speech before the battle began, knowing his God was invincible.
- ▶ Do we have the same understanding? Do we truly believe and know that our God is invincible? Our words must reflect our faith before we see the victory.
- ▶ In the book of Job, we again hear incredible words of faith coming from the lips of a man in the midst of a devastating series of trials.
- ▶ Job’s children were dead, his wealth was gone, he was in incredible physical pain, his wife opposed his integrity toward God, and his friends were calling him a hypocrite. He was totally and utterly alone.
- ▶ And yet in this state he made the timeless statement: “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” (Job 13:15).
- ▶ It’s really easy to testify when things are good in our lives: “Come what may, I’m going to serve the Lord!” But when ‘come what may’ comes, do we still have the same testimony?

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 22:1-8a; 1 Samuel 17:45-47;
Job 13:15; Daniel 3:13-18; Acts 7:54-60;
2 Timothy 4:6-8

- ▶ Let our mouths be filled with Faith Words in the middle of our crises.
- ▶ Whether your trial is over an extended period of time like Job’s or is a short, intense, unexpected crisis like Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego’s (Daniel 3:13-18), there are Faith Words you can employ. And if you, like Stephen, should pay the ultimate price for your faith through martyrdom, let your Faith Words be at work in the middle of life-ending persecution (Acts 7:54-60).
- ▶ The Apostle Paul provides our final example. In his case, his Faith Words come at the end of a full and productive life lived for God. As he told his son Timothy, “...I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith ...” (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
- ▶ Sick and in prison, persecuted and weak, Paul had the Faith Words we all need to be able to say when we come to the end of our journey: “I served my Lord and I was faithful; and I know He will give me a crown of life. Not because I deserve it or have earned it, but just because of His grace and mercy toward a wretch like me. I’m going home!”
- ▶ Faith Words will take you through this life and lead you to the next life—eternal life in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Use them daily!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you found yourself saying, “I think I can, I think I can...” and then found that you couldn’t? What type of situation was it?
2. What happened when you relied solely on yourself? What happened when you switched from saying “I think I can” to “I know God can”?
3. What are Faith Words you have spoken into your life or into the life of others recently?
4. Do Faith Words change depending on the circumstance?
5. Take the time to encourage one another. Declare Faith Words!







Prayer Time

Lord, help me to fill my mouth with Faith Words in the midst of whatever situation I may face.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

-  (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)
-  (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

L.G. Ice-Breaker: What children’s story has most impacted your life and how?