



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

THE FLAME



July 2018 issue

Taming the Christian Within

By Maria Muratore

How can we become a better version of who God created us to be? Let's reflect on our own human tendencies and how they can hinder our spiritual growth. Our thoughts, words and actions should be guided by our values and relationship with Christ. Most of us are still in transition from our former worldly ways to living and believing as true Christians. We must surrender ourselves and align our will to God's will for our life. Are our thoughts, words and habits in rebellion to God? If so, let's recognize and tame the Christian within.

Let's start with our thoughts; some are good and productive while others are not. Our mental monologue usually contains too much self-focused and self-defeating babble.

Have you invited the Lord to direct your mind?

Our minds are the place of intellect, reasoning, and intentions. Behaviors begin in the mind, and the mind is where spiritual transformation happens (Romans 12:2). The object of my regular thinking will determine how my days, years, and ultimately my life plays out. Everything starts in the mind.

What's the source of self-focused and self-defeating thoughts?

Given that our behavior begins in the mind, is it any surprise that the adversary wants to mess with our thinking? A feeling of heaviness accompanies self-defeating thoughts. Most of the time, we realize that we're engaged in a spiritual battle, but are unable to be freed immediately. We may pray, confess, read God's Word, then pray some more. Recognize the enemy and fight him with God's power and with Scriptural truth.

Are you replacing self-focused thinking with a renewed mind-set?

After praying for the Lord to protect our mind and recognizing the enemy, we have a choice. Will we train our brain to concentrate on the things of God, or will we let it be consumed by the things of this world? Focusing our minds on God requires some work. If we don't take purposeful action, then we're allowing our minds to go anywhere it wants to go. I know where it will go, and it's nowhere good. I know myself. So, even when I am fully confident of God's love and care, I still must decide what I will and will not think about.

The following verses help me to set my mind on things above, and not on earthly things:

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (Colossians 3:1-2)

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (Romans 8:5)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)

Are you resting in the unconditional acceptance of Jesus Christ?

I'll pray for the Lord to protect my mind, help me recognize the enemy, and work to keep my mind focused on God. Sometimes I will be successful, and sometimes I will not be. Over time, it will become easier. There are days when all I can do is rest in the truth that I am at peace with God, that I am free from accusation, and that I am God's child. **Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are at peace with God.** *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:5).*

In Christ, we are free from accusation. *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).* **In Christ, we are children of God and heirs along with Jesus.** *"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ..." (Romans 8:16-17).*

Taming the Christian Within

Continued...

Does your tongue need taming?

Words, if not used carefully and thoughtfully, can cut through a person like a knife. The Bible stresses the power of the tongue, stating that although small, has the potential to cause huge problems. Just like how it only takes a spark to start a fire, a reckless word can cause a misunderstanding between family, friends, and neighbors.

So how are we to guard our hearts and our lips from “harsh words that stir up anger?” The Bible reminds us to keep God at the center of our lives. This means that we are to **align our hearts and responses with God’s**, no matter how difficult the situation.

“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

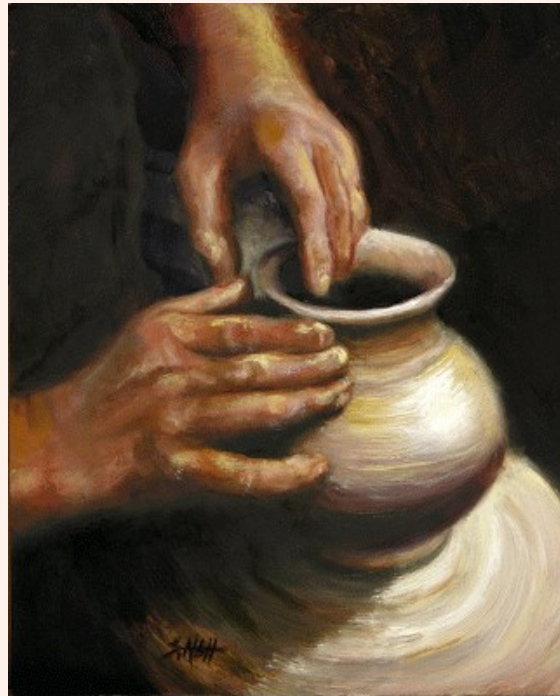
Colossians 4:6

Regardless of the situation, we ought to exercise patience, love, and graciousness in our speech. We’re also urged, as Christians to tailor our response in a way that will draw people to God. In many cases, a misunderstanding is best resolved immediately instead of letting it simmer. But often, if we reply on the spur of the moment, we’re more likely to give a hasty or harsh answer. If I feel God’s soft prompting to retreat and pray first before responding, I find that the words that proceed from my mouth and lips are more likely to be words of love, truth, and grace that minister rather than hurt.

So, when do we respond? It depends on the situation. Sometimes, we may feel that we need to quiet ourselves down first and pray for God to grant us wisdom and anoint our lips before we speak in a given situation.

Our tongues, together with our sinful human nature, can tear down and destroy. But if we center our lives on Christ, our tongues can build up and edify others, and glorify God. God wants us to be transformed in our thoughts, in our words and in our deeds. Change starts from within. We can’t control others, but we can modify our own behavior, thoughts and words. Let’s reflect on where we are on our journey and where God is taking us. Sometimes we need to add or subtract from our past patterns. If we are to be transformed in Christ, we need to be flexible, moldable and coachable by God. Are we open to His shaping?

“Dear Lord, have patience with me! Continue to mold and guide me according to your most perfect will for my life. Amen”





The Power of Life and Death is in the Tongue

Part 1

By Debbie Rony

Help me Lord...my mouth needs saving! Are you also ever tempted to mouth off at someone in anger, impatience, or frustration? Have you ever participated in gossip, spoken uncharitably about someone (an individual, a group or even an enemy), judged or criticized people in front of others? I confess that I have. Our world today is full of strife, contentiousness, and confrontations. Sometimes its personal confrontations with family members like our spouses and children that causes us to lose our self-control in regard to our mouth. If that wasn't enough, we are surrounded by television, social media, and organizations that go out of their way to stir the pot of rhetoric, hate speech, and condemnation of beliefs and values that are opposed to our own. Many people today engage in verbal battles about all the "hot button" issues and it is easy to get caught up in negative speaking and doomsday mentality. For some of us, it might be little closer to home. How do you speak to your family members and more importantly, how do you speak *about them* to others? Are we speaking about the good things God is doing in our lives or are we murmuring, grumbling, and complaining? The bible is overflowing with verses about our speech so it seems that God has a lot to say about the power of our words.

As Spirit-led Catholic Christians, we are to guard our mouths and to ask the Holy Spirit to help us. James 3:2 says *"If anyone does not fall short in speech, he is a perfect man..."* Do you realize that your WHOLE LIFE is affected by the power of your speech? *"The tongue is also a fire. It exists among our members as a world of malice, defiling the whole body and setting the entire course of our lives on fire, itself on fire by Gehenna."*

What is the course that you have set for your life according to what you are saying? Your speech is also a reflection of what is in your heart so what is your heart full of these days? Whatever is in there will surely make its way out of our mouths one way or another and it is either for our good or for our detriment.

"But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart and they defile" Matthew 15: 18. My friends, if you want to live a victorious, spirit-filled, joy filled, peace filled, overcoming evil with good life, you need to ask the Lord to cleanse your tongue along with the rest of your body and soul! In other words, our mouths need sanctifying.

In my opinion, here are two of the strongest truths of the bible as to the effect of our words. *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit of it."* Proverbs 18:21. Let me say it again...**life and death**. Our tongue gives us the power to bring life or death to ourselves and others. James 3:9 says, *"...With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. This need not be so, my brothers."* Here is the ugly truth ...we each **choose** what we use our tongues for: we speak life or we speak death. We bless or we curse. **Your words carry power in the spirit realm** and the purpose of these articles is to show you how to use this power, in and through the power of the Holy Spirit, using prayer and proclamation of God's word, to help bring you into the fullness of God's promises to you. Famous Charismatic teacher and speaker Derek Prince writes extensively about this in his book, "Prayers and Proclamations." He writes, "It is God's Word, and if you say it with a believing heart, through believing lips, it is just as effective when His Spirit says it through you as it is when God Himself says it." Wow. Just rest in that for a minute. How can this be? Isn't it Jesus who heals, delivers, and redeems us? We pray to Jesus but we can also **proclaim** Jesus in our lives by speaking the Word out loud because **JESUS IS THE WORD!**

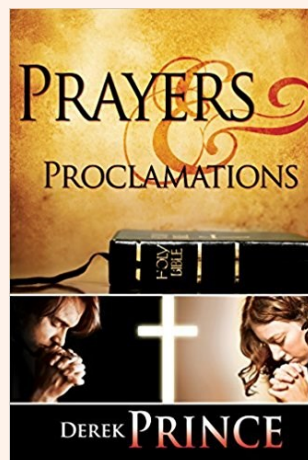
The Power of Life and Death is in the Tongue Continued...

Proclaiming the Word is proclaiming Jesus. In His Divine Personhood He is the WORD made flesh. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life but He is also the Word. Speaking the Word out loud releases your faith in Jesus and will change your heart, your thinking, your behavior, your habits, and YOUR LIFE. *“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and does not return there, but waters the earth and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goes forth from My Mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”* Isaiah 55:10-11. Sometimes we are waiting for God to change the circumstances in our lives but **He may be waiting on us to come into agreement with what He’s already said in His Word. And we come into agreement by believing and speaking the truth of His Word into our lives and situations.** This is especially true when we are faced with trials and tribulations or when we keep going through the same situation over and over again. Many times the enemy will speak lies to us to get us to come into agreement with what **he says about us, our families, or our situations.** Do you want to come into agreement with him or with what God says?

Sometimes satan will just tempt us to not believe what God has said in His Word. Jesus faced this same temptation after the Spirit led him to the desert. How did Our Savior handle this? In Matthew Chapter 4, every time the devil tempted Jesus, Our Lord said, “It is written...” and then spoke a scripture to combat the devil! He modeled for us the very thing He has equipped us to do! Jesus took up the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and used it against Satan. Pick up the Sword, wield the Sword, and use it to defeat the enemy in your own life!

I hope that this introduction to proclaiming God’s Word has had as much of an impact on you that it had on me when I first discovered this spiritual principle. The enemy has been hard at work in my own life as I have sat down to write this article for the last couple of weeks because he knows the power of this spiritual principle and he did not want me to write on this topic. But, by God’s Grace and Mercy, He delivered me and I am so happy to share these powerful truths with you. The next several articles will illustrate practical ways to do this in as many areas of our lives as we can. But it all starts with a decision on your part...you must choose to surrender. *“But no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, a deadly poison.”* James 3:8. We cannot do this in our own power and strength. Are you willing to surrender your tongue and let God tame it and bring it into submission to His Will and His Word?

Recommended Reading:



Upcoming Events

July 25th 2018

Healing Mass

St. Bernadette's Catholic Church 7pm

1005 Wilbon Rd. Fuquay-Varina, NC

August 11th 2018

Unbound Charlotte Conference

Healing and Deliverance Conference

Saturday, August 11th, 2018

Eastside Church, 10132 Harrisburg Rd. Charlotte, NC

For more details please email Julie Jahn at unboundchltnc@gmail.com

August 18th, 2018

Generational Healing of the Family Tree and

Generational Healing Mass

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Raleigh NC

Details TBA

September 28th-29th

Save the Date! Catholic Charismatic Tent Revival

"Behold, I Make All Things New"

Guest Speaker Deacon Larry Oney(Steubenville)

Holy Name of Mary Church, Bedford VA

www.catchingfirerevival.com

October 20th, 2018

Save the Date! The Diocese of Raleigh

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference

"From a New Pentacost To An Unshakable Kingdom"

Saturday October 20th, 2018

St. Michael the Archangel Church Cary, NC

Featuring guest speaker Peter Herbeck

For more information about these events and registration please visit our website at

www.ccsraleigh.weebly.com