



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

THE FLAME

October 2018 issue



The Power of Life and Death is In the Tongue

Part 2: The Power of Silence

By Debbie Rony

The last article I wrote focused on choosing our words carefully as well as making proclamations with Gods Word and our faith into specific situations we encounter. However, there are times in our lives and our circumstances when we are just called to be SILENT. As

Christians, we are often called to show restraint

especially when persecuted or undergoing a trial by fire. Unfortunately, these may be the **very times** when we seem to have the least self- control in regards to our mouth! Living the

Gospel of Jesus sometimes just means zipping our lips and acting like the Christian we profess to be. St. Francis of Assisi famously said, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

There are many times in our lives when the Lord will call us to remain silent and talk only to HIM. For many of us this may be a very hard thing to do. The bible teaches us about the power of remaining silent and trusting in God even in the most adverse situations through the examples of Jesus and Our Lady. Let's face it. When we are undergoing hardship we may complain and otherwise lament about our circumstances with a friend, relative, or coworker (keep in mind we are usually not content telling just one person!). Repeating the same negative words only serve to *reinforce* the hard feelings we may already have. In other words, we stir our own pot and keep stirring it! I believe one of the best examples of someone remaining silent when facing an uncertain and worrisome future in the bible is

the Blessed Virgin Mary. When it was announced to her by the angel Gabriel that she would conceive the Messiah through the power of the Holy Spirit, all she said, in essence was "How can this be?" She didn't ask the angel a hundred questions about "How am I going to do this?". She simply trusted God and said, "...let it be done to me according to your word." She was a woman of few words and the bible said she often "pondered all things in her heart." To ponder is to "weigh mentally' and to "carefully consider". In other words, she most likely led a life of interior contemplation and not outward communication to

others In the midst of what must have seemed like an uncertain future. When we undergo trials in our own lives how often do we just "ponder" all things in our own hearts rather than running off to tell other people? Don't get me wrong though.: It is good to seek wise counsel but we must always **start** with God. After that we **silence** ourselves to listen to the One who is Our Counselor. I once heard a priest say, "Never talk to your friends more than you talk to God!" This is especially true when someone offends us or hurts us. Our natural instinct may be to lash out and retaliate with harsh words, judgement and criticism. The bible says, "do not return evil for evil". We run the risk of sinning against God and neighbor when we use our tongue to "curse" someone. According to the amplified bible the greek word for curse means "to speak evil of someone". That means speaking of them in an unkind and uncharitable way.

The power of our unkind and evil words carry weight in the spiritual realm. This is why the bible says to bless and NOT to curse. There is a great temptation today to "speak our mind" or lash out at people who wound us but this is the exact opposite of the example our Lord Jesus gave us. To be clear, I am not speaking of people who are physically, mentally, or sexually abused because they can and should speak out about the injustice done to them. Rather , I am speaking of the everyday offenses and hurts that we receive from those close to us, in our community, and even when we are persecuted for our faith. We will suffer like Jesus suffered but we are not to retaliate.

The Power of Life and Death is In the Tongue

Part 2 continued...

We are not just called to be the hands and heart of Jesus: we are called to have His Mind and His Mouth. I saw a Facebook post recently that illustrates the importance of remaining silent and talking only to God about some things. It is simple but not easy and we must ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?"

"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His foot-steps. "He committed no sin. And no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly." 1 Peter 2:21-23

Someone Offends Me

Choice #1

Tell People about it then...

The listeners begin to think of my offender...

They join me in speaking negatively about my offender...

I have succeeded in causing others to sin, creating division in relationships ...

Making myself more upset by re-hashing the details

Directly, willfully disobeying Gods Word by obeying my flesh and not the Spirit !

Choice #2

Go directly to God in prayer.

He listens. I listen.

He gives me perspective.

I feel peace.

The need to vent is gone.

I have obeyed and honored God

I have valued unity.

I love my neighbor as myself.

Stay tuned for the next article in this series!

The Power of Life and Death is in the Tongue , Part 3 "Speak to Your Problem!"

The Catholic Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Charismatic Renewal

PRESENTS

“FROM A NEW PENTECOST TO AN UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM”



GUEST SPEAKER PETER HERBECK

Saturday, October 20th, 2018

9:00AM-4:30PM

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church,
Cary, NC

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- The Unshakable Kingdom
- A New Pentecost
- Discernment of Spirits
- Charisms and Spiritual Gifts
- Forming The Next Generation

For more info please visit our website

www.ccsraleigh.weebly.com

Seating is limited. To register online please go to:

[https://stmichaelcary.weshareonline.org/
HolySpiritFullDayConference-October202018](https://stmichaelcary.weshareonline.org/HolySpiritFullDayConference-October202018)



Tentative schedule for the conference:

		1:15-2:15 PM	Presentation #3: Discernment of Spirits
8:00-9:00 AM	Packet pick-up; on-site registration	2:15-2:30 PM	Break
9:00- 9:30 AM	Welcome; Praise and Worship music	2:30-3:00 PM	Presentation #4: Charisms and Spiritual Gifts
9:30- 10:15 AM	Presentation #1: The Unshakable Kingdom	3:00 - 3:10 PM	Break
10:15-10:30 AM	Break	3:10-3:40 PM	Presentation #4: Forming the Next Generation
10:30-11:15 AM	Presentation #2: New Pentecost	3:40-4:00 PM	Shared discussion and prayer related to afternoon presentations
11:15-11:30 AM	Shared discussion and prayer related to morning presentations	4:00-4:25 PM	Large Group Prayer Experience led by Deacon Patrick
11:30-1:00 PM	Lunch; Prayer Teams available for private prayer requests	4:25-4:30 PM	Closing prayer
1:00-1:15 PM	Welcome back; Praise and Worship music	5:00 pm	Mass in Church

Upcoming Events...

October 20th, 2018

The Diocese of Raleigh

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference

"From a New Pentecost To An Unshakable Kingdom"

Saturday October 20th, 2018

St. Michael the Archangel Church Cary, NC

Featuring guest speaker Peter Herbeck

October 24th, 2018

Healing Mass 7pm St. Bernadette's Catholic Church

1005 Wilbon Rd, Fuquay-Varina, NC

October 26th-27th, 2018

Order of St. Luke the Physician Healing Conference

"Journey to Healing: The Power of Christ to Heal "

All Saints Anglican Church, 5328 Hemby Road, Weddington, NC 28104

For more information contact Judy Rowe at 704-246-8023

lsaintsanglicanchurch@gmail.com

www.allsaintsweddington.org

December 2nd-3rd, 2018

Save the Date! Guest Speaker Deacon Ralph Poyo

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Cary NC

February 17th-18th, 2019

Save the Date! Guest Speaker Fr. Dave Pivonka

St. Michael the Archangel Church, Cary NC

***For more information about these events and registration please visit our website at
www.ccsraleigh.weebly.com***