



Words. Have. Power.

"This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24

"Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body."

Proverbs 16:24

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My Story

For many years, every area of my life was under siege. My mind, emotions, my mouth...the devil. Whatever the cause, I was upset about everything in my life. It seemed that all of my opportunities for joy in this world got quickly snatched away. The man turned out to be married. Then another, and another. And the last one. I left churches without fanfare or any appreciation for all I tried to teach the people of God in Sunday school and Bible study. At work, office politics resulted in unfair job loss, and subsequent financial debt.

Untimely family deaths. Broken friendships. Constraints and flops in my business endeavors. Disappointments in higher educational pursuits. Weakness in my physical body. All of which led to anxiety and depression that I privately powered through. I was exhausted. I gained about 30 pounds. I was a wreck.

Why was I going through all of this as a committed, celibate, single Christian just trying to follow God's plans for my life? Whenever I heard someone declare how good God was, and all the blessings he bestowed upon them, I got irritated. Really? I did not feel blessed or highly favored. I felt lost, confused and abandoned by God. For many

years, I lived in bitterness and resentment for what I perceived as God's unwarranted punishment. I tried to quit...life. I tried to quit God. I successfully quit church for several years. In fact, whether or not I would attend church became a running joke within my family. Fortunately, I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by speaking in tongues years ago, but to my surprise, being gifted and spirit-filled did not exempt me from oppression.

So, even in my darkest moments, I still heard the Holy Spirit say, "Get up, Ashan." "Don't give up." "I am going to make your name great." Most of the time, I listened and moved. However, many times, I just lay in the middle of the floor, stared at the wall or overate until I fell asleep. This is real spiritual development. This is becoming a vessel God can use. It is bewildering, overwhelming and hurtful. These aspects of the Christian life often go unaddressed in churches, as congregants suffer in silence. Sermons about suffering do not excite people's pockets the same as those on faith and prosperity.

After years of exasperation, I finally realized how the power of words influenced my life. Praying and petitioning God for your needs is a necessary part of the Christian life. However, what you say releases forces that produce noticeable results, sometimes immediately. As the legendary Kenneth E. Hagin taught, you have to pray it and say it. You truly have what you say. It might take days or years to manifest, but you will receive and experience what you say. This is an awesome and scary prospect. How many times have you asked for something and actually gotten it, but not exactly how you expected?

Ah, yes...the Rumpelstilskin effect. That is why we must seek God's guidance, and speak good words over our lives, so that we may prosper in this life, right now...not just when we all get to heaven. Where do we find these good words? In the Bible. Reciting scriptures aloud empowers you for daily service. But, coupling positive confessions with Bible scriptures transforms you and your circumstances from the inside out, like the pumpkin turning into a coach in the Cinderella story.

When this teaching truly became a real *rhema* word that I acted upon, I landed a full-time job within three days of applying after four years of underemployment. I joined a church. I got a new car, despite my credit score, which turned out to be newer and costlier than I anticipated. When I anxiously asked God how I was going to pay for the higher car note, the Holy Spirit responded, "Don't worry about it. The blessings of the Lord make you rich, and He adds no sorrow to it" (Proverbs 10:22).

So after years of struggle, I finally began to work the word of God in my life for material success and inner peace. Words have power. The words you speak heap blessings or curses upon your soul and your physical life on earth. As God spoke to His chosen people, "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life that you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19). I had to learn that money is not the ultimate means of living a full life in Christ, especially when I truly understood the premium God has placed on His word as communicated to us through the Bible.

As I poured through the classic teachings of Kenneth E. Hagin, and listened to Bill Winston, I began to write my own prayers and confessions for the areas of life I wrestled with the most. The result is this book, which did not come easily. My friends, the travail over this book has been great, but so has its sweet arrival!

Speaking these confessions boost my faith and jumpstart my prayers, and hopefully they will do the same for you. Notice I said *jumpstart* my prayer life, not *replace* my prayer life! This book helps you to speak when life leaves you speechless. Use your words. Find your power. Walk in everyday victory!

Discouragement

"Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5, NLT).

Help me Lord. Help me to get up. Help me to face this day. Help me to keep the faith. Despite my feelings and the circumstances of my life, Lord I praise you. Your love for me never ends. Your forgiveness and mercy never end. When I feel down, I remember how faithful you are to me. Every morning, you wake me up with new energy, and another chance to make life better.

Lord, sometimes I feel like trouble is all around me. I get sad, and my mind is stressed. Help me. Bring me out of this darkness. Lift me up from this pit of despair. Steady my heart and my mind. Walk with me. Help me to praise you, even if I don't feel like it. I worship you, Lord. I praise you. Many will see what you have done for me and be amazed.

Let your love, grace and mercy always protect my heart, mind and soul. I thank you for your good thoughts toward me. I have a good future. Thank you for increasing my hope and faith in you. In the name of Jesus, I thank you that it is so. Amen.

Scripture References

Psalm 30:4-5 (NLT)

Sing to the Lord, all you godly ones! Praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime! Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Psalm 40

Read the entire chapter.

Hebrews 13:15-16

So through Jesus let us always offer to God our sacrifice of praise, coming from lips that speak his name. Do not forget to do good to others, and share with them, because such sacrifices please God.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NLT)

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

Jeremiah 29:11

I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future.