

November 6, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

How Honest are You?

"Honesty always telling the
truth and living
out of the truth?"

Be with S
Careful what A
you Y

THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK

It's really that simple...

We live in a culture where everything happens fast. I mean really fast. If you have the means you can download music, movies, and have them in 30 seconds or less. You can order anything online and have it shipped right to your door next day! The world is moving at a super fast rate. What does that do to us, are we clear from the ever increasing speed of the world around us, or do we try to keep up with it? I say things with my mouth at such a fast rate, I rarely think before I speak. It is something that I am working on, cause when I don't think, well I say things that I will retreat. Take a look at what Jesus says about our words. **Matt. 12:35-37** **35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."**

Wow! This verse is very convicting, cause I mean that I want to say that I have good stored up in me, and that I want to say things that are right and true. But there is a word in this text that catches me. It is the word

careless. The words that come out of my mouth most often times are careless. If it is careless talk then it means that I did not think before I spoke. My heart wants to be good, and my mouth wants to say the right things. But far too many times I forget to think. So what are we to do? Well here is what I am seeking to do. I am shutting up and I am thinking.

Step one: I am talking less, unless I have something to say that is good I don't speak. For me to stop talking well that is a hard one. But it is the first step.

Step two: I am thinking more about what I say and before I say it. I ask simple questions. Is this something I want to say? Is this the right thing to say? Will I regret saying this? And finally is this the right thing to say?

It has been a process, but I find my mind is clearer and more at rest. My mouth used to lead me and often times get me into trouble, but now my brain is leading me and the mouth follows. I say less, and I regret less. I make my words count, and have importance! Give it a try, think before you speak!



Teeth! It's Got Teeth!

Listen I know that it is only words, and the old saying is that sticks and stones may break my bones but words don't hurt me. What a load of crap! Words hurt, they have teeth and they can tear off the flesh of someone else. We have to think about what we say and why we say it. Simple, no it's not simple. The only way that we can truly watch what we say is to process everything through God. Check this out: **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. When we think about these things you will only speak good things. The words we say reflect what our mind is thinking. We need to clean up our mind.

Our Words Have Power

"Speak Life" by Toby Mac

"Speak Life"

Some days, life feels perfect.
Other days it just ain't workin'.
The good, the bad, the right, the wrong
And everything in between.

Though it's crazy, amazing
We can turn a heart with the words we say.
Mountains crumble with every syllable.
Hope can live or die

So speak Life, speak Life.
To the deadest darkest night.
Speak life, speak Life.
When the sun won't shine and you don't know why.
Look into the eyes of the brokenhearted;
Watch them come alive as soon as you speak hope,
You speak love, you speak...
You speak Life, (oh oh oh oh oh oh) You speak Life. (oh oh oh oh oh oh)

Some days the tongue gets twisted;
Other days my thoughts just fall apart.
I do, I don't, I will, I won't,
It's like I'm drowning in the deep.

Well it's crazy to imagine,
Words from our lips as the arms of compassion,
Mountains crumble with every syllable.
Hope can live or die.

Lift your head a little higher,
Spread the love like fire,
Hope will fall like rain,
When you speak life with the words you say.

Raise your thoughts a little higher,
Use your words to inspire,
Joy will fall like rain,
When you speak life with the things you say.

Watch them come alive as soon as you speak hope,
You speak love, you speak...
You speak Life,



This song is featured on
The Eye On It Album
by
Toby Mac

Real Life Heroes

The Last Scottish Martyr

Walter Kilne

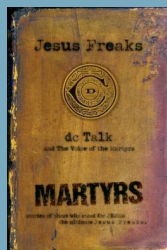
82 years old

Scotland 1551

"Let's get this over with" grumbled the sheriff. He had been walking most of the night, bringing the two Christians, Alice Driver and Alexander Gough, to Ipswich to be burned at the stake. It took longer than usual because such a great crowd of people had insisted on coming with them. "First the hymns, now the prayers. I say they've been praying long enough," he told the bailiffs. "Get them up and chain them to the stakes." When he heard this, Gough stood up and said to the sheriff, "Let us pray a little while longer, for we have a short time to live." But the bailiff said, "Come on. Let's burn them!" Gough answered, "Be careful, Sheriff. If you forbid our prayers, the vengeance of God hangs over your head." Later, as the two were being fastened to the stake, some of their friends came and took them by the hands. Seeing this, the sheriff cried to his men, "Seize them! Don't let one of them escape." When the crowd heard the sheriff's order and saw the danger those by the stake were in, they all ran toward it and crowded around the stake, hiding the friends of the martyrs. When the sheriff saw this, he gave up and didn't arrest anyone. Then fire was put to the wood, and amid its flames these two heroic spirits passed beyond the reach of man's cruelty.

Don't ever forget those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail. When all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew you had better things waiting for you in eternity.

Featured Story
from the book
Jesus Freaks do
Talk and the
voice of the
Martyrs



CHARACTER

EXTREME APPLICATION

Think before you speak, very few have this gift, or talent. We need to develop this ability, and grow our character to be a people who are known for this trait. What it boils down to is character, it is wisdom, and let's be honest it is just cool. If you can be a person who thinks before you speak you will find that you speak a lot less, and you will listen a lot more. Try it for a week and see what happens.

Think About it (Tension in words)

We all talk way too much! We really do. Think about a typical Sunday morning or Wednesday night how hard is it for leaders to give instructions for a game, it takes us forever because everyone else is talking. There is tension in our words, or might I say that there is tension in the silence, when we are saying nothing.

The world is a noisy place and we have made it that way because we believe the lie that silence is bad. We believe the lie that if we don't answer right away it makes us look like we don't know the answer.

We think if we are not talking we will not be noticed, if we do not lead the conversation, we will get left out. If we don't have something to say then we are not cool.

When we live in that tension, we say anything and everything, just so that we are talking. If that is the case then there is no way that we are thinking before we speak. The tension in not thinking before we speak is this, we say stupid, dumb things. Things that hurt others, and ourselves, we say things that we wish we never said, things that do not match up with our heart. I have said so many things, and then I realized, I need to shut up and think about what I am saying as though my life depended on it. I am still learning and working on it. But here is the deal, I am learning from the best teacher ever, Jesus. Jesus said this John 14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you aren't mere words. I don't just make them up on my own. The Father who resides in me crafts each word into a divine act. Do I want to be like that, yes I do! I want my words to be crafted by God, I want to speak only what God tells me to speak. In order to achieve this I have to be quiet and listen to Him, and that will lead me to think before I speak. That will lead me to a place of cool understanding. Christ will speak but God will lead the words, and things will change. Let's all try to talk less and listen more, especially when we are giving you instructions for games...



DIG IN

Read: Matt. 12:35-37 35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

1. For each of the following, rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being "a lot like me" and 1 being "not like me at all."

- ____ I keep my promises.
- ____ I talk the same way everyone else does at my school.
- ____ I talk differently at school than I do at church.
- ____ The words I use change depending on which friends I'm around.
- ____ I've used some words even though I didn't know what they meant.
- ____ I like to sound like I know what I'm talking about.
- ____ I can easily say "I am sorry" and admit "I'm wrong".

2. Which best describes the thought process you use to decide how you speak?

- ☐ Thought process What's that?
- ☐ I just go with the flow, like everyone else.
- ☐ Everyday is a creative opportunity.
- ☐ I speak only what others need to know.
- ☐ I try not to talk that much.
- ☐ I'm very careful not to say anything bad.

3. Check out Matthew 12:22-24. What did the Pharisees say about Jesus?

Now read verses 35-37. What warning did Jesus give?

4. Rewrite the following verses in your own words.

Psalms 19:14—

Timothy 2:14—

5. What we say is important in that it can help others and ourselves. Sometimes we need to share honestly, and that's difficult to do! How easy or difficult is it for you to share your deepest feelings with each of these people?

Your close friends—

Your parents—

Your youth group leaders—

God—

UNDERSTANDING
HONESTY

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

[illegible]

EXTREME FAITH MAGAZINE

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