



Should I be Committed? (Part II)

Proverbs 24:16: (NASB) *For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, but the wicked stumble in time of calamity.*

Two weeks ago, on New Year's morning, we did the first part of this program and laid out the importance of getting our thoughts and attitudes right in order to be able to execute the kind of changes we want to have stick in our lives. Thoughts and attitudes - they are the internal part of the equation. The second part - the external part - are our words and actions which not only hold a direct link to thoughts and attitudes, but they are also the barometer by which we are judged by those around us. Stay with us as we look into the life-altering power of words and the world-shaking power of actions!

Our Commitment



Just how powerful are our words?

Matthew 12:33-37: (NASB) ³³*Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.* ³⁴*You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.* ³⁵*The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.* ³⁶*But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.* ³⁷*For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*

Jesus was talking to the Pharisees. But does this have an application to our Christian leaders today?

To be justified = rendered righteous

Condemned = judged against



Our words have great power to those listening and how they affect our own self. So, according to Jesus, our words, being a primary source of the revealing of our true selves, become a primary source of judgment back to us. OUCH!!!

 **My word is my bond - during daughter's play, Hook (1991)**

- *(Peter on the phone during his daughter's play)*
Wife: Peter, you're missing it!
Peter (on the phone call): Ok a meeting tomorrow AM.
Son: Dad, my game! You promised!
Peter: I'll make it a short meeting. I'll be there - my word is my bond!

Peter's words were good! A promise was made and assurance was the result.

James 5:10-12: (NASB) ¹⁰As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful. ¹²But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

Here is a simple admonishing to look to the examples of those whose words were in the name of God, followed by the simple admonishing to speak out of your convictions and not out of your comfort.

James 3:1-2: (NASB) ¹Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. ²For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

We all mess up with our words. This is a warning against speaking things that do not produce growth or encouragement.

Can our words - even if they are from a positive intention - still be destructive?



Let us find a **basis in God's justice** for our words - tempered with God's love (which tempers our attitudes) and God's wisdom (which tempers our thoughts):

Galatians 5:13-17: (NASB) ¹³For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

In the battle for our words, we literally have two sets of conflicting desires driving us - flesh vs. spirit!

 **My word is my bond - on the airplane, Hook (1991)**

- *(Peter missed his son's baseball game) Peter: Jack, next season I'm coming to six games, I promise! Hey, Jack - my word is my bond!*
- *Son: Yeah, junk bond!*



Our words can bring destruction - to us and to those around us:

Proverbs 13:3: *He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.*

It is very easy to create discord with the things we say.



Our words can praise:

Psalms 145:4-5: (NKJV) *⁴One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. ⁵I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works.*

Psalms 145:21: (NKJV) *My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever.*



What kinds of words are in our list of "10 Most-Used Phrases"? Are they praiseworthy?

What words do we *not* want to hear related to our lives?



How many more broken promises, *Hook (1991)*

- *Wife, after Peter takes another phone call: You promised the children some real time here. How many more broken promises Peter? (Cell phone rings yet again)*
Peter: It's Brad Moira - I gotta take this call. I gotta fix this.
Wife: No you gotta fix your family first.



Our words based in God's justice:

Zechariah 8:16-17: (NASB) *¹⁶These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. ¹⁷Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate, declares the LORD.*

The essence of a just God:

Deuteronomy 7:9: (NASB) *Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

Left unchecked, where could our words lead us?

James 3:3-6: (NASB) *³Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. ⁴Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. ⁵So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. (Gehenna)*

Left unchecked, there may be nothing but utter destruction waiting as a result of our words!



A few precious years and you are missing it, *Hook (1991)*

- *Wife, throws Peter's cell phone out the window: Your children love you - they want to play with you. How long do you think that lasts? Soon Jack may not even want you to come to his games! We have a few special years with our children when they're the ones who want us around. After that you're going*



to be running after them for a bit of attention. It's so fast, Peter, and then it's over. You are not being careful, and you are missing it!

Our words reflect what we are made of, so we don't want to speak idly.

James 3:7-12: (NASB) ⁷For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. ¹¹Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

We are, unless focused by that which is greater than ourselves, living contradictions. If we allow this condition to persist, what kind of witness to God's love are we?



What words do we want to hear describing our lives?

What words do we use most often when relating to others?
Are we positive, kind, and gentle? Do we build up or tear down?



Granny Wendy's achievement, Hook (1991)

- Peter, giving a speech at the dedication of a hospital wing: Granny Wendy brought me in from the cold. She taught me to read and write - she even found people to be my parents and adopt me. She's loved so many children, so effortlessly - that's her achievement. Many of you here tonight were once lost children. But Granny Wendy found parents and homes for each of you and saved you. That's her miracle!*

Here we can see the interrelation of words and actions - the example of Granny Wendy's life was utterly profound in contrast to the struggles of Peter.

Matthew 7:24-27: (ASV) ²⁴Every one therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock: ²⁵and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon the rock. ²⁶And every one that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand: ²⁷and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and smote upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall thereof.

Let us find a basis in God's power for our actions, also tempered with all of the above.



Let us AVOID what the fallen nature provokes us to do:

Galatians 5:17-21: (NASB) ¹⁷For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. ¹⁹Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.



We want to act in accordance with our convictions, not out of comfort.

Just touch our fingers and we can go home, *Hook (1991)*

- *(Peter is trying to rescue his children from Captain Hook's ship, unaware he was Peter Pan.)
Kids: All you have to do is touch our fingers and we'll be able to go home!*
- *(Peter reaches while clinging for dear life to the other mast.) C'mon Daddy, Mommy could do it! (Peter tries then gives up.)*

Sometimes we can have a lot of “want to” relating to our life’s experiences. We want to fix this - we want to change that - we want to be better, stronger, thinner, happier, more courageous, more content. The secret of success lies in the transforming that “want to” into “living it now!”

Galatians 5:22-26: (NASB) ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

He missed the most important game of your life, *Hook (1991)*

- *(Hook wants Jack to consider himself as his new father) Jack, your father went to your sister's school play, did he not? But did he go to your baseball game? He missed the most important game on what might have been the most important day of your young life!*

God's power as a basis for our actions:

Romans 12:1-2: (ASV) ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. ²And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye **transformed** by the **renewing** of your mind, and ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Transformed = literally or figuratively, “metamorphose”
Renewing = renovation

We want to dedicate ourselves to God and transform ourselves so we can do the right things.

**Words are powerful. Actions are powerful.
What happens when you put both together?**

Together they can be transformative or absolutely destructive.

James 3 was all about the damage that our words can produce. Now it focuses on the actions of our lives as the living testimony to what we stand for:

James 3:13-18: (NASB) ¹³Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



The source of our "wisdom" gives power to our actions, therefore our ability to influence is based on those things that influence us...we can pick and choose which wisdom we want. We want that from above, not worldly wisdom.

 **Jack taking out his anger at his father by smashing clocks, *Hook* (1991)**

- *Son: For never letting me jump on my own bed! (smash)
For always making promises and breaking them! (smash)
For never doing anything with me! (smash)
Hook: For a father who's never there Jack? (smash) Jack, for a father who didn't save you on the ship!
Son: He wouldn't save us.
Hook: Who couldn't save you Jack!
Son: He wouldn't - he didn't even try - he was there and we were there and he wouldn't try...*

If Jack were to have stayed in this circumstance, what kind of influence would he grow to have?

1 Kings 18:20-21: (NASB) ²⁰So Ahab sent a message among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹Elijah came near to all the people and said, How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. But the people did not answer him a word.

The people were inactive and paralyzed from fear.

 **My happy thought was you, *Hook* (1991)**

- *(Peter finally remembers he is Peter Pan and found his happy thought that enables him to fly.) Jack! You won't believe this! I found my happy thought! It took me three days to find it... guess what happened when I did! Do you know what my happy thought was? It was YOU!!!*

The Scriptures are full of our "happy thoughts." We should be a living testimony of what we stand for.

[Also see:
2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and Isaiah 58:10]

John 13:13-17: (NASB) ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

It's a strange thing - the greatest source of power for our actions in all of human example was clothed in humility, sacrifice and love.



What are the effects once Godly wisdom becomes our power source for our actions?

 I have to climb a drain pipe, *Hook (1991)*

- *(Peter rescued his children and is back home. He hears his cell phone ring in the snow back where his wife threw it previously.)
Brad, hi! Been holding this long? I'm incredible! Yeah ... Neverland ... lost boys... Jim Hook... duel to the death, I'll fill you in later. Listen, I'd love to chat, but I gotta climb a drain pipe right now! Why? Because I ran out of fairy dust - if not I would have flown up!*

Philippians 3:12-14: (NASB) ¹²Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



What habits do we have?

Which of these habits weaken us? Which make us stronger?

 To live would be an adventure, *Hook (1991)*

- *Wendy: So, your adventures are over.
Peter: Oh no! To live - to live would be an awfully big adventure!*

2 Corinthians 10:3-5: (KJV) ³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ...

Some thoughts might not be able to be destroyed, but we can "hold them captive." Our default thinking should be spiritually-based on the word of God rather than fleshly-based on the word of men.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12: (NASB) ⁹Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, ¹¹and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, ¹²so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.

God's power in our actions provokes us towards responsibility - responsibility towards those of faith, towards our personal affairs - towards those outside the faith.

Hebrews 13:5-9: (NRSV) ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, I will never leave you or forsake you. ⁶So we can say with confidence, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me? ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, ⁹which have not benefited those who observe them.



This is why we can be so content - we have Jesus on our side.

Philippians 4:4-7: (NASB) ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Our thoughts, our attitudes, our words and our actions. If we find our center in the word of God and are focused on that, we will learn to be anxious for nothing. The God of Peace that surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts and our minds. Then our words and actions can be Godly. That's the key to success as a Christian. It's not money, it's not fame, it's not position, it is living in a humble way.

OUR ATTITUDES
should be based in...

GOD'S LOVE

OUR THOUGHTS
should be based in...

GOD'S WISDOM

OUR ACTIONS
should be based in...

GOD'S POWER

OUR WORDS
should be based in...

GOD'S JUSTICE

*Should I be committed?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



" I expect to pass through this life but once. If, therefore, there can be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, for I shall not return this way again."
- William Penn

More on the power of God as a source for our actions:

Psalms 127:1-2: (NRSV) ¹Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. ²It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

Deuteronomy 32:10-12: (NRSV) ¹⁰He sustained him in a desert land, in a howling wilderness waste; he shielded him, cared for him, guarded him as the apple of his eye. ¹¹As an eagle stirs up its nest, and hovers over its young; as it spreads its wings, takes them up, and bears them aloft on its pinions, ¹²the LORD alone guided him; no foreign god was with him.

Isaiah 40:27-31: (NRSV) ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

When you look at the next citation, notice how all four of the elements we spoke about, thoughts, attitudes, words and actions are clearly reflected in Jesus' words:

Matthew 5:1-11: (NASB) ¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²He opened his mouth and began to teach them, saying,

³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.



By realizing that these “Be-attitudes” encompass all of life’s habits and experiences, it becomes easier for us to grasp what Jesus says next:

Matthew 5:12-20: (NASB) ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ¹³You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

As a Christian, yours is a life of great privilege and great responsibility. To live your Christianity is to fulfill both... To (truly) live is a GREAT adventure!!!