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Dear Praying Friends,

What power is contained in a word! "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21). With a word, a child is strengthened to believe he or she is loved and born for a wonderful godly purpose. With a word they can also believe a lie about themselves and their value. As James says, with the tongue "we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing."

God knows that behind the spoken word, exists the power of heaven and hell. He made the world with the spoken word. The blessings and curses that fall upon us, or that flow from us, have binding power upon a life. For his teaching purpose and in the Spirit, Jesus cursed the fig tree. Peter saw the effect the next day: "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered away to its roots!" exclaimed Peter. (Mark 11:21)

This power is real. There is an authority given to our words, an authority that operates in the spiritual world we all inhabit. It must operate by the Spirit and in faith. This authority must be exercised correctly, in relationship with God, in believing prayer, in forgiveness and submission. (See Mark 11:22-25) Otherwise, our words that have the spiritual power to loose for freedom and life, can also bind for enslavement and death.

All of us have known the power of being blessed and of being cursed by the words of others. We too have blessed and cursed others. Those blessings and curses stand and operate according to the spirit in which they were spoken. We may walk, believing the truth of God's blessings spoken over us as his children: redeemed, beloved, seated with him in the heavenly places, justified, and made holy all by the blood of Jesus. However, we may also walk under the curse that another has spoken over us - shackled by the lies of Satan, subjected under the authority of those malicious words. Can these curses be broken? Can I be set free? Can I undo the evil my own words have done to another?

Jesus came to earth and broke the power of the curse of sin. Those evil words spoken to us, those curses that still bind us, all have been broken by the blood of Jesus. "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us . . . so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:13, 14)

As I began to understand and to believe the Word of God concerning what I had done and what had been done to me, faith began to boil in my heart. I believed the words of Jesus: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

(Matthew 16:19; 18:18) In the middle of the night two weeks ago, I broke, by the blood of Jesus, the authority of the curses spoken against me, in forgiveness and faith. I also confessed my own curses spoken against others and, in the power of the blood of Jesus, undid and loosed the authority of what I had said, receiving the forgiveness of the Father. It was like being reborn! I was set free from the curse of others and I know the power of my own sinful words was broken, in Jesus' name. It is the promise of the Gospel. It is the purpose for which Christ has come:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor,
he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion -
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.
(Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:17-19)

It is my confident assurance that the blood of Jesus is *enough* to break every curse, for what I have done and what has been done to me, "that he may be glorified" and "bring good news to the poor." He came to "bind up the broken heart"; and that is *you and me*.

Thank you for your prayers for us. Cheryl and I continue to minister the gospel, proclaiming "the year of the Lord's favor." In all seasons of life, we have a glorious gospel to live and proclaim. Each week we are in a Sunday Zoom meeting with a family in El Salvador, praising the Lord, sharing the Word and praying together. Cheryl is meeting weekly with a group of ladies she is teaching and I continue to proclaim Christ in the classroom.

We began distant learning over a year ago using Zoom. I have actually been on the phone and in direct contact with my public school, 6th grade Dual Language students and their families more this year than in years past. I have had the opportunity to minister to hurting families, praying with parents, encouraging them with the Word, with all freedom and boldness. Returning to the classroom this past winter, we have read together, discussed and written about the theme of redemption, lives changed by a personal relationship with God, while reading the unabridged editions of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Heidi*. I speak to my students boldly and clearly about who God is and what Christ has done for us. Please keep me in your prayers that I may speak with all spiritual wisdom, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I am counseling and praying with the Senior Pastor of the Miramonte Baptist Church each week by telephone. Pray I may speak with spiritual insight and power. I also have opportunities to minister to pastors here, both North American and Hispanic. Pray for Pastor

Jorge, who just lost his home to a fire, which broke out in the middle of the night. A neighbor got the whole family up and out safely, but it was utter devastation. Jorge and his family have seen God's hand in all that took place by taking them out of a trailer and providing for them a house. The churches we have attended in Benton City, both Hispanic and non-Hispanic have continued to meet weekly in spite of the pandemic. The Body of Christ must meet together for the health and life-purpose of that Body and its members to be fulfilled. This we must do, in obedience to God.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to minister the Word by life and word, in English and in Spanish, in faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. May God bless and keep you in your daily walk with Him. We are

Yours for souls,
Hal and Cheryl Large