



APPNOTES

Date: June 22-26 , 2020

Series: James: Faith That Works

Isaiah 41:10 I'm no theologian, just a Jesus-loving want-to-be writer. As a writer, I know words are powerful, so as I was doing a little research for this week's AppNotes and Googled "what are the most powerful words in the Bible," I came across an article: *What God spoke to Moses, "I am"* written by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer. He says, "God is someone who is deep within each of us." He described it as "that tiny spark you can call on at any time." These two, simple, yet immensely powerful words, "I am" are in the Bible over 300 times with various references. Those words just have so much pull. They cause something to stir and come alive within me! Say this out loud, "God is within me!". Can you feel Him? Can you feel the Holy Spirit just filling you? Words can have SO MUCH power! Always use them for good.

Proverbs 18:4 Jesus embodied kindness in His words and actions. As followers of Christ, we get to mirror that characteristic to the world. As we heard during last week's message, "our actions should reflect our beliefs and our beliefs should sharpen our actions". Kindness is a human necessity. We need to give it just as desperately as we need to receive it. Recently a co-worker had called me to vent after a stressful day. I just listened at first, allowing her to tell me what had happened and why she felt the way she did. I offered calmness to her tension, spoke truth to her situation, and reminded her of who she is and how to respond. Later that evening, she texted me, thanking me for making her feel better. That action she then took, made me feel so good and even a little special. And all it took was a touch of kindness.

Proverbs 15:4 Have you ever gotten lost, I mean, really lost -- in a book? A good author can write words that are so descriptive and well put together that you begin to visualize the story. You feel what the character is feeling. You become emotionally attached and one with the characters. As you read the ending words of that last page, you begin to feel a loss. The story is over, and it is as if you have lost your best friend. All of these emotions from only written and, sometimes, fictional words. Isn't that crazy? So you can imagine just how powerful words can be. Spoken words carry an even greater impact. Speak truth with kindness. Speak only necessary criticism with love. And always speak life-giving words, because the power of your words is sometimes much greater than you know.

Proverbs 18:14 Remember that childhood saying you would rattle off to the classroom bully, “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!” Wow, did we have it wrong! It’s quite the opposite, isn’t it? We can most times heal very easily and quickly from a broken bone or illness. But when we are hurt emotionally, when unkind, unfair and unnecessary words are spewed at us, we may never heal from them. Even after years have gone by, those words can still make their way back into our thoughts. They can seep into very vulnerable and deep places of our soul where self-love and self-respect should be. Only the cleansing love of our amazing God can reach in that deep to heal us. Remember this the next time you lose your temper, find yourself gossiping or simply giving your opinion: Words can make or break someone. You have that power.

John 1:1-5 One of my most favorite words is *agape*. One of the Greek words for love, 'Agape,' is powerful enough to transform hearts and empower people. It has the power to create new life, forgive old debts, and transform everyone who believes in Jesus Christ. It’s a word that is used to describe God’s love for each and every one of us, no matter what we have done. Isn’t that one word so beautiful and full of hope!? It’s warm and inviting yet powerful and intimidating at the same time. It is the opposite of that darkness that calls you into sin. That one word alone has the power to pull you in to wanting to strive for this kind of love, for yourself and to share it with others. We get to experience that through Jesus. And we get to pass it along.

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