

Thought for the Day

Tuesday November 19, 2024

Today's Scripture:

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel: The spirit of the LORD speaks through me; his word is upon my tongue.

~ 2 Samuel 23: 1-2

Thoughts on Today's Verse(s):

King David made a wonderful confession as he approached his death. He began his final words with the glorious affirmation that all the psalms he had written, all the things he had spoken and all he had advised in his reign, came from God. This was not an indication of belief that he was something special but rather a humble admission that *everything* he had written and said came from The Lord. It was all inspired by The Holy Spirit.

Friends, please believe me when I tell you that it's the same for me and any and all authors who seek to bring glory to God and serve Him in helping Him to grow His kingdom. To believe otherwise is actually a *denial* of the sovereignty of God and His amazing ability & power to influence our thoughts, our words and our writings. Why would that be a denial? Because, every time I, and so many others, sit down to write we pause to ask for God's help. We seek the Lord's guidance, His truth and His majesty as we put fingers to the keyboard and we heartily believe He will inspire us. Thus, to take credit for what He has given us to say is an affront to The One Whom we have just asked to inspire us. We must remember that when we humbly seek God's help, He is waiting to offer it and use us according to His good and perfect purposes and we must make sure He gets the glory. David did, even on his deathbed.

Friends, this affirmation of the power and influence of God in our speech and text is not just for clergy or some aspiring Christian writer like me. It is for everyone. It is for all who profess a true faith in Christ and wish to see His kingdom grow and prosper and flourish and thrive. Whenever each of us enters a situation in service of The Lord, we can offer some simple yet sincere prayers that seek His providence and ask His help to guide our words. If you are visiting the sick, offering pastoral care, looking to make a connection with someone The Lord has nudged you to or even just having coffee with a friend, I heartily recommend you pause to pray before you meet. The Holy Spirit will give you the words to say; all you need do is ask (Luke 12: 11-12).

Each day as I sit to write, I pause to pray and I try to always include two simple elements in that prayer. The first is based on scripture (Psalm 19:14) and the other is something I made up on my own. I offer them only as suggestions realizing that you may wish to modify and revise as is most suitable to you. In fact, I encourage you to do so.

1. *May the mediations of my heart and the writings of my hands be acceptable to You, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

2. *May Your words be my words; may my words be Your words.*

And don't forget to thank The Lord when He answers these simple prayers. He will.

Prayer:

Almighty God and Father, thank You for promising Your Holy Spirit to all who ask for Your help. Thank You for the marvelous words of Samuel who pointed out Your servant David realized that everything he had spoken and written had come from You. It is obvious that You inspired both of them and they followed through according to Your glorious good will. Teach us to pray, O Lord, whenever we prepare for a meeting of any kind. You have promised to give us the words through The Holy Spirit and we believe in all Your promises. May it always be so. May You help us develop the habit. We pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.