

## Do our words have power?

### Introduction

**Kenneth Copeland**, leader of the “*Word of Faith*” movement, declared the following concerning the Coronavirus:

*“Standing in the office of the prophet of God, I execute judgement on Covid19...I execute judgement on you Satan....it is finished over America, sayeth the Mighty Spirit...”* See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSlrQBGfUtw>.

In the same manner the following is declared on a whatsapp that I received:

*“I curse you...I speak death and failure...shrivel up and die...get out of the bodies of the human race...I command you...you will not prosper...”*

### **Do our words have power? – They do not have power, they have influence!**

Those that believe that words have power erroneously argue that because it is stated in Genesis that God used words to create, words must have creative power. What they do not keep in mind is the fact that it was not because words have power that God could create; it was because of the fact that **He had power** that His words had power!

### **What about Proverbs 18:21 that states that the tongue has power over life and death?**

The context explains what this verse really means – your words express your attitude that you have towards life and that can have a positive or a negative influence on yourself and on those around you. This is confirmed by what is expressed in the context. See **Prov. 17:22**:

*“Being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is slow death to be gloomy all the time.”* (GNB)

When James refers to the tongue as a “*a restless evil,*” “*full of deadly poison,*” he is referring to the negative effect that the words of a malicious person can have on the lives of others. (**James 3:8-9**).

**Our words do not have creative power; our words have influence, they can have a positive or a negative influence; figuratively speaking they can cause “life” or “death,”**

It is also a medical fact that some diseases can be caused by harmful chemical substances that are released in the human body as result of chronic, embittered attitudes.

The “life” and “death” that is spoken about in **Proverbs 18:21** possibly also refer to the authority that the words of the king had in Biblical times; he could command someone who provoked him to be executed. See **Proverbs 20:2**:

*“A king's anger is like a lion's roar; anyone who angers him forfeits his life”*

## What about being able to bind Satan and his demons?

Many believe that Satan and his demons can be bound. If there was any truth in this concept, considering all the “binding” of evil forces that has been done by believers over the years, South Africa should have been a heavenly utopia by this time. The truth of the matter is that only God can bind Satan and that he, Satan, is being allowed to be god of this world until ultimately, God will bind him and throw him into the lake of fire at the end of the age (**1 Joh. 5:19, Rev. 20**).

But does the Bible not teach that we can bind demons? Again we see how a misinterpretation of Scripture can lead to deception. The Amplified Bible translation helps us to understand **Matthew 18:18**:

*“Truly, I tell you, whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare proper and lawful on earth must already be permitted in heaven”.*

If one considers the context of this verse it becomes clear that it has nothing to do with the binding of demons, but that it refers to how disputes amongst believers should be dealt with. It must be done according to heavenly principles (**Matt. 18:15-20**).

## What about the binding of the strong man in Matthew 12:22-29?

In this passage the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out devils by making use of the power of Beelzebub. Once again we see that the answer lies in considering the context; because Jesus is stronger than Satan, He can enter the strong man’s house and free those who have been kept captive. Nowhere in the context do we find any prescription in terms of teaching believers how to bind demons. It is all about Jesus and the power He has over Satan.

If Satan can be bound why does Peter and James, instead of teaching believers how to bind him, declare that they must resist him:

*“Your opponent, the devil, is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. **Resist him** and be firm in the faith...” (1 Pet. 5:8-9).*

*“Therefore, submit yourselves to God. **Resist the devil**, and he will run away from you” (James 4:7).*

If Jesus did ‘bind’ the devil in **Matthew 12:24-29**, what needs to be explained is who untied him so that he could once again, on a later occasion, influence Peter to thwart the purposes of God (**Matt. 16:23**)? He, Satan, was also very free to enter Judas and cause him to betray Jesus (**Luke 22:3**). Why did Peter and James, instead of instructing believers to just bind the

devil, encourage them to resist him by submitting to God (**1 Pet. 5:8, James 4:7**)? Furthermore, why did Jesus not bind the devil when he tried to tempt Him in the desert (**Matt. 4**)? Why did Jesus, instead of binding the demons after having cast them out of the two possessed men, allow them to enter the pigs (**Matt. 8:30-31**)? We find the answer in **Revelation 20:2** where it is written that the devil will only be bound at the beginning of the millennium, when God Himself will do it before throwing him into the abyss at the end of the age.

Instead of binding demons, Jesus always drove them out of possessed people (**Matt. 9:34, 12:24; Mark 3:15-22, 5:12, 16:9; Luke 4:4**). Furthermore, we are warned that because the demons are not bound, they will come back to the person from whom they were driven, and if they find their former house empty, they will bring others with them with worse consequences (**Luke 11:24-26**).

It is also significant that in the context of **Eph. 6:10** where the full armour of God is listed, not a word is spoken about the binding of evil forces?

### **Do we have a mandate to curse the devil?**

A large gathering a prominent Christian leader declared: *"God gave me a mandate to say to Satan, 'This far and no further!'"* He declared that he had a mandate that the archangel Michael did not even have! See **Jude 1:9**:

*"Even the archangel Michael, when he argued with the devil and fought over the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him. Instead, he said, 'May the Lord rebuke you!'"*

### **Signs of the Times?**

Are sicknesses like aids and the Corona virus not perhaps forerunners of the pestilences that are predicted in the Bible as signs of the end times?

*"And when ye shall hear of **wars** and **tumults**, be not terrified: for these things must needs come to pass first; but the end is not immediately. Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be great **earthquakes**, and in divers places **famines** and **pestilences**..." (Luk. 21:9-11).*

Should we not be careful not to "curse" things that God has ordained as signs of the latter days. Who would dare to also command the wars, famines and earthquakes that are so prevalent in these days, to stop?

### **Conclusion**

Instead of the emphasis being on the issue of individual sin as being the root cause of many problems and that the sinful nature of man is Satan's biggest ally, the blame is often shifted to evil powers. The Biblical answer lies in the fact that the individual sinner has to repent and take full responsibility for his own sins.

Although the enthusiasm of those believing that Satan and his demons can be bound is to be complimented, it remains unscriptural and in reality, ineffective.

**Nick Maartens**

**Jeffreys Bay**

**0827826074**

**E-mail: [nickmaartens@hotmail.com](mailto:nickmaartens@hotmail.com)**

**[www.nickmaartens.co.za](http://www.nickmaartens.co.za)**