



Spirit of Grace Herald

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Most Powerful Words

In Romans the apostle Paul writes: "...**that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**" (Romans 10:9-10). We usually think confessing is admitting you are wrong or committing a terrible crime. But the confession Paul describes is a very positive thing. Paul says that salvation occurs when people confess the Lord Jesus Christ with their mouths and believe in His resurrection in their hearts. This is not the confession of sin; it is the confession of Jesus Christ.

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he admonishes the young minister: "**Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**" (1 Timothy 6:12). Once again, we have the confession of Christ, this time called "the good confession."

There was a point, some years ago, when many people in the church were talking about "positive confession." Some ministers told folks, "Never let anything negative come out of your mouth." Others suggested that if you kept confessing and acknowledging some blessing you desperately wanted to receive, you would surely have it. Some people thought that if they confessed over and over again, "I am a millionaire, I am a millionaire," then millions of dollars would come flowing their way. Of course, that does not work, and after a while, most Christians grew out of the "confess it and you've got it" phase.

Real confession has to do with the acknowledgment of Jesus Christ. It is not about what we have or hope to have, or what we are or wish to be, it is about who Jesus is. In the Gospel of John Jesus makes seven "I AM" statements. He declares Himself to be the bread of life, the light of the world, the doorway to God, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the life, the way, the truth, and the life, and the true Vine. Here is where the power lies, here are some of the most powerful and life-changing



words that can ever come out of our lips, not about us but about Jesus.

Jesus is the I AM. It is not our job to say, "I am this" or "I am that." It is neither necessary nor productive for us to brag about ourselves. We do not need to mindlessly utter positives about ourselves: "I am somebody," "I am powerful," "I am smart," "I am successful," "I am the sharpest student," "the most beautiful woman." When we focus on ourselves and our talents and abilities, we bring ourselves under a curse, the curse of pride. The Bible says "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble." Focusing on our talents and assets is the worst thing we can do.

The Most Powerful Words of All

Instead, we focus on Jesus Christ. It is not self-confidence that we need to navigate this life successfully; it is Christ-confidence. So when Jesus says: "I am the Good Shepherd, I am the true Vine, I am the Resurrection and the life," and so forth, it is our job to say: "Yes, You are!" There is incredible power in the simple confession and acknowledgment of who Jesus is to us.

This is how we enter the kingdom of God. Jesus declares Himself to be the Savior, and we confess Him as Savior and believe in our hearts that He is the risen Savior. But we do not just believe Him to be the Savior of the world. That belief will not save anybody. We believe Jesus to be *our own* Savior. And when we confess Him and receive Him as *our* Savior, suddenly divine life flows into us, and we become children of God. With our mouths, we have confessed the Lord Jesus and with our hearts, we have believed in Him, and we are saved.

But this goes beyond salvation. Throughout our lives, we learn of Jesus in His many roles toward His people. If Jesus says about Himself, "I am, I am the bread of life, I am the Good Shepherd, I am the Way to God," it is our job to echo this back to Him, and confess, "Lord Jesus, You are *my* Good Shepherd, You are *my* Bread of life, You are the Son of God, You are the Keeper of *my* soul." These are the most powerful words that can ever come from any human mouth. By our faith and confession, we are releasing His grace and power in our lives. It is one thing for Jesus to be the Good Shepherd to His church. That doesn't help me out much. But when I embrace Him as the Good Shepherd to Dennis Pollock, to me personally, that's when Jesus' divine shepherding grace comes into my life, and I start making one dead-on decision after another, because my Good Shepherd is leading me.

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