

MESSAGE 3:

POWER IN YOUR PALATE

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Mark 11:20-26 (NASB)

²⁰ As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. ²¹ Being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." ²² And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. ²³ "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. ²⁴ "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you. ²⁵ "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. ²⁶ "But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."

MESSAGE GOAL: The goal of this message on "Power in Your Palate" is to demonstrate the power and authority of God's Word over the obstacles and difficult problems we face in our life.

INTRODUCTION: In our lives, we all face personal obstacles. Whether they are emotional struggles, financial problems or spiritual attacks, they serve to rob us of our joy and tempt us into trying to remove the obstacles in our own strength. The Bible calls these obstacles mountains. Jesus teaches us that we believers have the authority to speak to these mountains and command them to depart from us as long as we speak under the authority of God's Word. That means that Christians have power in their palate; by speaking the words that God has written on our hearts, by declaring the truth that we have stored up inside our minds through diligent reading, and studying of Scripture, we can make our personal mountains disappear.

But some mountains are bigger than others. Some of our problems overwhelm us, and in the stress and anxiety of trying to handle those problems, we might lose sight of two important truths. First, as children of God, we have the same authority to "move mountains" that God has. As creatures

made in His image, we have power in our speech, which comes forth as an outpouring of what lives in our hearts. Second, in order to benefit from that power, we must utilize that power through actual speech, not just belief. Just as God declared the universe into existence, not with the wave of a hand, but with authoritative speech, we also must speak to our problems after we have spoken to God in search of His will. By seeking His will first through prayer and by storing His truth in our hearts through faithful reading of the Bible, we can speak to our mountains and demand that they be removed from us.

SERMON POINTS:

WE HAVE THE POWER TO SPEAK TO MOUNTAINS.

- Mountains are the problems and struggles in our lives that hinder us from experiencing joy and freedom in our lives.
- Before we speak to the mountains in our lives, we need to speak to God in search of His perfect will.
- Just as Jesus spoke directly to a fig tree and caused it to wither, we can speak to our problems and demand that they be removed from us.
- The power of our speech stems from our faith in God's power.

BENEFITING FROM THIS POWER REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION.

- God's Word has power because He has authority over His creation.
- We are created in His image, and as such, our words have authority when we speak something in accordance with His will.
- We have authorization when our words mirror what God has already said and when they articulate what He already wants.



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BENEFITING FROM THIS POWER REQUIRES UTILIZATION.

- Just like the energy that comes from electrical power, we will only benefit from such energy if we utilize it.
- Utilizing the power that moves mountains requires actual speech.
- We must verbally speak to our problems in the same way that Jesus spoke to a fig tree if we hope to remove such problems from our life.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

A CHRISTIAN FIRED FROM HIS JOB: (This is a true story of a man who spoke with Dr. Evans two weeks before he preached this sermon). There was a Christian man who once got fired, not because of incompetence, but because of his faith. His bosses told him, "We don't have tolerance for Christians here." They said, "If we had known that, we wouldn't have hired you. You know you can't read your Bible on your lunch hour here even though it's your lunch hour. If you don't abide by this, even though your work is fine, you can't work here anymore."

The man replied, "Well, I cannot deny my faith."

They said, "Well you can't work here," so they fired him.

So he packed up his stuff, and on his way out, he prayed, "Now, Lord, You know this situation. I speak to this situation in the Name of Jesus because You know it is unfair. You also know I need a job, so I speak into this the will of God." He then walked out the door, and on his way to the car, his cell phone rang. On the other end was a voice that said, "This is General Motors, we've just come across your application. We want to hire you." He was offered more money, more benefits, more everything, before he got to his car!

THE WEIGHTINESS OF ONE'S WORDS:

When a police officer drives up behind you with his or her lights on and through the speaker says, "Pull over," it would be in your best interest to comply. You know why? Because that is a weighty request from a weighty person who has authority to say those words. Now if a regular person just drives up next to you and says, "Pull over," I would not advise

you to do that. You know why? Because they do not have the authority to make the demand. So, when weighty words come from a weighty person, you might say that that person has authority to speak. Those words now have clout. When God talks, He's not just mouthing stuff. When God talks, He talks to create. He talks to employ. He talks for something to result out of His speech.

THE UTILIZATION AND AUTHORIZATION OF POWER: We all have power in our homes. We have electricity in our homes because we are connected to a power source. Some kind of power is supplying our houses with the energy we need. In fact, the available power far exceeds our needs. It's not only serving us; it's serving every customer of the company providing the power. If we have a connection with a power company, it has authorized us to use their power. However, the power company is not going to come to our homes and plug in our appliances, nor is it going to come into our homes and flip on the light switch. That's our job. All it's going to do is authorize our use of it. So, if we have power, but we don't plug something in or flip a switch, it will remain unused power. Not because we don't have it, but because we never utilized it. Now, if we haven't paid the bill and the power company cuts us off, we could flip switches till we're blue in the face, but nothing will work. That is because we have not been authorized to use the power. So, two things have to happen before our appliances will work or our lights will come on. To benefit from power, we must be authorized to have that power, and we must utilize it once we receive it.

THE DOCTOR VERSUS THE PSYCHOLOGIST: You make a trip to Walgreens and get some over-the-counter medication for your flu-like symptoms, but they are not doing the job. It's only getting worse. Over-the-counter is just not strong enough. So, you call the doctor and make an appointment. The doctor says, "Well let me check you out." She discovers the problem is much deeper, and writes out a prescription. All you know is, the doctor is authorized to write it by virtue of being a doctor. You also believe and trust her knowledge. What she wrote on the paper, even though you can't read it or understand it, you trust is exactly what you need. You make your way to the place that couldn't help you before



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when you were trying to do it yourself. You tried to solve your problems yourself by shopping right off the counter, but now, with the doctor's word in your hand, you have authorization to shop at the pharmacy in the back of the store.

The pharmacist comes up and says, "May I help you?"

You tell him that you want the prescription filled and hand him the paper. That's, that's all you say, because you are operating on faith based on the word that is written. He brings you some medicine based on what is written, and you've got the gall to trust him enough to take it. You don't understand it; you can't explain it; you don't know the ingredients in it. All you know is my authorized person wrote it down.

However, you can have people with knowledge who don't have authorization. A psychologist has knowledge and can tell you what's wrong, but they can't write a prescription. A lot of us are spending a lot of our time talking to psychologists instead of doctors. Spiritual folk who sound like they know what they're talking about, but they can't write a prescription. All these people can do is help you analyze how bad off you really are. But when you talk to a doctor, who's been authorized to write a prescription and you give the written word to the pharmacist, he gives you something that can change your health and make you feel better.

SERMON LINES:

This message will show you that there is real power in your words, if you channel the authority that God has given you.

This message will teach you how to speak with the same authority that God has as it relates to your struggles.

This message will teach you how to benefit from the power that comes from that authoritative speech.

This message will give you the confidence to face your problems with faith in God's power to tell them to cast themselves into the sea.

QUOTES BY DR. EVANS:

"Before God could say it, He had to think it because words are thoughts made audible."

"If the transformation does not have a declaration preceded by an authorization, there will be no transformation."

"Prayer releases what God has already intended to do."



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