

The Power of Proclamation Part 1

Proposition: Christians when led by the Holy Spirit can declare God's truths and bring in God's anointing and change atmospheres over individuals, groups and even nations.

You and I have a powerful tool to help ourselves, our families, our church, our community and our nation and the nations of the world that is rarely used. The late Derek Prince and Steve Backlund are probably the greatest users of this tool in our generation.

Proclamation is an aggressive form of spiritual warfare; where believers having faith in the revelation that God has given them or more particularly having faith in the revealed Word of God declare God's truths into situations where that truth is not yet being seen. And as the Holy Spirit partners with the revealed word of God spoken through our mouths atmospheres over people, and groups and nations begin to change and the presence of the Holy Spirit begins to work powerfully.

The verb to proclaim in Latin means to shout faith. I like that: To shout faith into the atmosphere.

"There is no more effective way to release God's Word into a situation than proclamation." – Derek Prince

To confess or to proclaim is to agree with our mouths what the Word of God says. It is powerful and it's not positive thinking or name it claim it; blab it grab it. Many years ago primarily through Kenny Hagin's ministry and Kenneth Copeland's ministry there was a real move just to declare out loud what we wanted. There were elements of what they taught that had truth but there were also large parts of what they taught that seemed to be about getting money and nice cars etc. Proclamations are not about talking positive; name it and claim it. Proclamations are when Christians, by faith, believing in what God has said, speak with their mouths, new realities into being.

I want to throw up on the screen a few scriptures to remind you of the power of our words; for good or for evil;

Proverbs 18:21

²¹ Words can bring death or life!

You and I have all experienced peoples' negative words about us. You are useless. You will never change. You will never amount to anything. Those words have a spiritual power to them and bring death. I am grateful for the time when the elders pulled me aside one day and said Russell you keep confessing over the congregation that we are poor. Please don't, speak faith, and speak life. On the other hand we have probably all seen how God's word spoken over a person or a prophetic proclamation spoken over a person e.g. God is going to use you to reach children for Jesus or I discern in you a gift of generosity etc; words like that bring life. I recall Juliette as she carried each one of our children proclaiming over them that

they would not have asthma and that they would love us and bring us joy. She had a real revelation to speak that way and God honoured her proclamations.

Back in the 90's Frank Piritti released two books; Piercing the darkness and This Present Darkness. They were just novels, they weren't intended to be books on theology or anything other than novels but I really liked them because it painted in graphic, dramatic form the reality that when we speak words of faith the kingdom of heaven is activated and when we speak words of death the demonic realm gains power. Words can bring life and death.

One of my favourite stories in the bible is when Jesus meets a Roman centurion who has a sick servant and this man says to Jesus; you don't need to come to my home to heal my servant just "say the word and my servant will be healed."

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ No one can have faith without hearing the message about Christ.

Firstly I believe that when revelation or better still God's Word is declared into the atmosphere you release faith and because of faith God is pleased and begins to change realities. I believe as well that if you lack faith in a certain area and you start declaring God's Word about that area even though you lack faith for what is needed, just hearing your words declared over and over again will increase your faith and make the proclamation more powerful.

Romans 4:17

¹⁷ The Scriptures say that Abraham would become the ancestor of many nations. This promise was made to Abraham because he had faith in God, who raises the dead to life and creates new things.

God declared over an old man who had, had his gold card for a long time that he would become the father of nations. When God declared that over Abraham he wasn't the father of anything. But God's declared words began to create a new reality.

Genesis 1:3

³ God said, "I command light to shine!" And light started shining.

Psalm 33:6

*⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.*

Two things are necessary for a supernatural proclamation that will bring about new realities;

- 1. The Word of the Lord**
- 2. The Holy Spirit empowering of those spoken words (breath)**

This is not being positive or name it claim it. When you speak the Word of God as empowered by the Holy Spirit you get new realities. Things change for good.

If I just speak words, give you information without the Holy Spirit's empowering and guiding those words information alone brings death. You and I have all heard teaching that is full of information but not inspiration and it's really boring. God's Word spoken *with* the Help of the Holy Spirit brings life, changes atmospheres, releases faith, and brings in the presence of God.

I want us to pause here, recognising that God's Word is truth and make a Proclamation right now that will bring close the presence of God and increase faith in the atmosphere here today. Would you stand with me and take 10 seconds to read this through then we will proclaim this truth together.

Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV)

*¹⁰ As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

I doubt that we realize just how much God wants to work through our words to bring life and to release faith into the situations we face.

Ryan and I had a friend in Raetihi called Ernie Bradfield. This man was an intercessor. He was as calm and as wise and faith filled as John Blight and as aggressive in intercession as Glenda Winn or Meleane McClurg. Ernie like all of us faced some knocks in life but he never would see himself as a victim even if someone else had treated him badly. Even on bad days I recall Ernie declaring out loud just as part of everyday conversation; *Lord you say we are the head and not the tail; Lord you say that all the plans you have for us are for good and not for evil therefore I declare God that You are going to overrule in this situation; I declare that You will work this situation for my good* etc. That is just the way Ernie talked and ... as he did I would feel my faith and the faith of those around Ernie rise and we would see the goodness of God come through.

I love the way that Derek Prince would retell the story of Moses call to lead the people out of Egypt. He recounts how when God spoke to the him Moses said; *I don't think so, I can't do it, what can I do* etc and God said to Moses; what is in your hands, Moses looked down and exclaimed "a rod Lord". Now a shepherd's rod was as common in those days as a cell

phone is in ours. Heaps of people carried them. “Moses, throw it down”, and as Moses does it turns into a snake and he is totally freaked out. God says pick it up by the tail (now that is a pretty scary instruction as we know you don’t pick up snakes by the tail) and yet as he does it turns back into a rod. Everything that Moses did took place as he stretched out by faith the rod that was in his hands. The plagues came, the Red sea parted. The water flowed from the rock in desert. The only tool that Moses needed to lead the people out of Egypt was a common shepherd’s rod. Everybody had one.

Derek Prince draws this parallel, between that rod and the most popular book of all time. The most common book found on the planet today is ... the Bible. It looks common and unimpressive to look at, but it contains all that we will ever need to bring the presence of God into any situation and to change atmospheres over individuals, groups and nations. And if we speak this Word, with faith, God will come.

Two things we learn from Moses’ story regarding proclaiming the Word.

- 1. Handle it with reverence/ extreme respect.**

Isaiah 66 The LORD said:

*Heaven is my throne;
the earth is my footstool.
What kind of house
could you build for me?
In what place will I rest?
² I have made everything;
that’s how it all came to be.
I, the LORD, have spoken.*

*The people I treasure most
are the humble—
they depend only on me
and tremble when I speak.*

I believe that this book though it looks common is full of supernatural truth. Its quick and active and sharper than any two edged sword about to separate truth from error. Handle the words of this book with respect.

The second thing that we learn from Moses’ story is

- 2. That we must exercise the authority we have.**

Moses had to stretch out the rod by faith. The Red sea parted for the Israelites when he stretched out his rod and when the Egyptian army was in the middle of those seas pursuing the children of God Moses then by faith stretched out the rod again and the seas came crashing in and drowned the bad guys.

The point is we need to declare with faith the Word of God. It needs to be spoken out of our mouths to create life.

I want to close this morning by giving you some practical declarations that you can use in your life to shift atmospheres and bring in the supernatural presence of God into situations around you.

As we do this bear in mind that it's a fearful thing to change anything in the bible or to teach our subjective opinions of God's Word, however, having said that I do believe that God wants us to personalize His Word without changing its meaning and I will do that for these declarations.

Making declarations will transform the way you think in maybe negative ways or without faith into having a renewed mind.

Suppose that you are having a bad day. Things keep going wrong.

Proclaim

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

¹¹ For God knows the plans He has for me, plans to prosper me and not to harm me, plans to give me hope and a future.

I haven't changed the meaning of this passage one little bit, I have just personalized this into a proclamation to be said out loud.

Would you stand and say it with me. 2 times then turn to the person beside you and say it again. Do you sense faith in God's goodness being released over your life as you say those words? God will start to work out His plans for you because of that faith.

Suppose you are facing a premature death. I have heard stories of believers proclaiming this verse and experiencing healing.

Psalm 118:17 (NIV)

*¹⁷ I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.*

Repeat together twice

Suppose people are criticising you.

Isaiah 54:17 (CEV)

*¹⁷ Weapons made to attack me
won't be successful;
words spoken against me
won't hurt at all.*

Repeat 2 times together

Then you could bless the person who has cursed you after making the proclamation.

Suppose you have a practical need.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (CEV)

⁸ God will bless me with everything I/we need, and I will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others.

Repeat 2 times together

Suppose you are wrestling with sickness.

1 Peter 2:24 (CEV)

***²⁴ Christ carried the burden
of my sins.
He was nailed to the cross,
so that I would stop sinning
and start living right.
By his cuts and bruises
I am healed.***

What God has said, spoken through your mouth by faith, as the Holy Spirit leads and inspires is proclamation. It changes atmospheres, it releases faith, and it brings in His presence. You and I need to exercise this kind of faith, this kind of spiritual warfare over ourselves, our families and our land. Some of you have the faith to exercise proclamations over the nations.