

Just Say The Word.

Matthew 8:8 New Living Translation (NLT)

8 But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed.

As I sat in my office at home this week putting this message together for you, I looked out the window in front of me and sure enough, there he was.

- Doing what he does every single day.
- Rain or shine.
- Snow or heat.
- Calm weather, stormy weather.

He runs along for about 30 feet, jumps onto the side of a tree, looks all around for hawks and food and the sunshine and then does another little 30 ft run and does his hawk, food and sunshine search again, all across the property until he reaches my neighbors place where I lose him.

But no worries, come afternoon, here he comes back doing the same thing.

There has been a squirrel doing this for the 10 years that I have lived in our home.

- I have been watching this squirrel make his long journey from the woods to the left of our house to the woods to the right of our home every day for years.
- It's a long way especially for a squirrel.
- But I noticed that as I watched this little guy – or girl, I felt some normalcy in the middle of all this Chaos.

See, I've been living in my home for 10 years now and every morning I watch this squirrel or its predecessors, do this journey across the middle of our property.

- In the morning he goes from the left to the right and in the afternoon, he goes from the right back to his home.
- There's a path he has actually worn in the yard.

- He knows it's there and no matter what kind of day I am having or what is going on in the world, I can count on a moment of normalcy as I watch this little squirrel do his long track along the wood line behind my house.

I was thinking this week as I watched him, how privileged he is.

- Apparently, he didn't get the news that a worldwide pandemic is happening right now.
- He's not scared of news casts.
- He's not worried about economic shutdowns

He's just doing what he does every day.

- He trots from the woods, along the creek line to Chris and Diane's place where I imagine he has a tree he eats from.
- Or maybe he just enjoys a nice long walk.
- All because he hasn't heard too words that you and I have been hearing lately.

Words.

Proverbs 12:18 NIV

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

It really is amazing, the power of words.

- Words can hurt people – deeply.
- And words can heal people.
- I've been at the bedside of terminal patients and seen where positive words brought them from the brink of death.

Proverbs 15:23 KJV

A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth...

- A person might not have money.

- They might not have popularity.
- They can be facing the worst disaster the world has ever faced, but what comes out of their mouth can bring them joy.
- The quality of your life depends on what comes out of your mouth.

“And a word spoken in due season, how good it is.”

We are living in a time that is precarious to say the least.

- People all over the world are very scared.
- From the largest and richest cities in the world to the most humble and poorest dwellings in the world.
- People are scared of something they can't see.
- They are scared of each other because the thing they can't see might be on that other person.
- So even families are avoiding one another during this time which is so hard on all of us.
- I can't visit my grandchildren.
- I can't visit my friends.
- I can't visit my family.
- I can't visit my neighbors.

Every time you are in the presence of someone else, you wonder... “Do you have it?”

- “Are you going to give it to me?”
- “Am I touching something that you touched?”
- “The air that I'm breathing, did you breathe that air?”

As social beings, this time is completely unnerving.

Proverbs 16:24 NIV

Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

- Honeycomb sounds good to me right now during this time.
- Sweet to the soul sounds like something we all need.
- Healing to the bones is something that your family and our country needs.
- Where will all that start?
- Proverbs 16:24 NIV. Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Winston Churchill the Prime minister of England kept his nation and its allies in hope during the darkest hours of the 2nd World War.

- From September 1940 till May 1941 The Nazi Blitz (Nighttime bombing of London and other British cities)
- ... He said, “We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.”

He was an old man.

- Frail really
- This was his second World War
- He could not fight next to the men in the trenches
- But he had words.

Words.

- Words that said – “No surrender.”
- Words that said – “We will fight this thing together.”
- Words that proclaimed unity and strength in a time when the natural eye saw devastation, destructing and death.

Mr. Churchill said, “It is no use saying, ‘we are doing our best.’ You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary.”

- When the nation thought it had tried hard enough, and done its best without success, he pressed them further with his words, “You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary.”

To a nation that was exhausted.

- Almost annihilated physically, mentally
- A people that felt like they had no energy left to fight...
- He said, “I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.”

With these famous words, he let every person in England know that he loved them, cared for them, and would toil, bleed and die alongside of them if it came down to it.

Did he have to do that?

- No
- Because his words brought an almost defeated Europe hope.
- His words brought defiance to its invader.
- His words said, "Enemy, you will not destroy us."

- "You may invade us.
- You may drop bombs on us.
- You may kill some
- But you will not defeat us."

To all of those working day and night in the hospitals and front lines of the war we are fighting against this Coronavirus I repeat Mr. Churchills words...

["Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."](#)

We owe more than a thank you to the Doctors and nurses and healthcare workers who are risking their lives and the lives of their families every single day.

- Treating the sick without the proper protections they should have against this virus.
- Thank you to the people in this world who don't run from a fight but run into it.

To every doctor, nurse, and health care worker, I say thank you for your service.

- Thank you for your sacrifice.
- Thank you for doing what millions of others would never do.
- You are brave.
- You are appreciated
- And you are loved.

["Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."](#)

- Thank you.
- Thank you.
- Thank you.

Words

- They give life

- They give encouragement
- They give energy to continue when one sees no reason to continue the fight.

Proverbs 18:21 King James Version (KJV)

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue:

This is a time that our words have the potential to divide people.

Or it is a time our words will unite them.

- I've listened to politicians argue about who gets what
- I have heard preachers argue and say the most divisive things.
- Families are even divided on so many things right now.

Facebook and social media are filled with people arguing over whether or not our President and local leaders are doing the right things during this crisis.

- My answer to all of that is, Your judgement doesn't help one bit, but your prayers will.
- 1 Timothy 2:1-4(NLT) I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them. 2 Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

Words

- Words that wound
- Words that divide
- Words that keep us from doing what we must do.
- Words that slow the process of healing that our world needs.
- Or words that heal
- Words that join together
- Words that cause us to work together to defeat a common enemy
- Words that speed the recovery of a world that is so devastated right now.

Psalm 19:14 King James Version (KJV)

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

This is a time when every Christian should be asking themselves... are my words healing or are they hurting.

- Regardless of my political affiliation.
- Regardless of my denomination.
- Regardless of the differences between myself and others.

- Are my words acceptable to Him?
- Do they bring life
- Do they bring hope
- Do they bring encouragement when others need to hear a 'good word'?

Psalm 19:14 King James Version (KJV) 14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

Look, we are all stuck in our homes right now.

- But that does not mean that we become less Christian.
- That does not mean that we become less concerned for other people in our country who need any help we can give.

What we say to one another right now will be the thing that gets us through this time.

- I said that to say this...
- What you post online will either strengthen others or it will discourage them.
- If all you do is tear down the efforts of our leadership who are working so incredibly hard to stop this virus and save lives, you are no help at all.
 - Do we all have to agree on every point?
 - No
 - But God has given us the leadership he has given us, so our prayers and our words should support and encourage and let them know how much we appreciate them.

- Will they get it 100%, right?
- Probably not – why? Because they are human just like you.

Daniel 2:21 King James Version (KJV)

21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

This is a day that we need to be praying for our President, governors and other leaders of our country.

- They need to hear from God.
- They need a word from God.

“He giveth wisdom unto the wise”

- We need the Holy Spirit of God to speak into the minds and hearts of our President, and especially the scientist and researchers who are working so hard to find the cure that we all need.

If a cure is going to come, it is going to come because He giveth knowledge to them that know understanding.

- Your words
 - Will either hold these people up or they will tear them down.
- Your prayers
 - Will bring them closer to the miracle that we all need, that is for sure.

Just say the word.

- Speak encouragement.
- Speak peace.
- Speak hope.
- Speak life.
- Speak prayers

There are too many people suffering and sacrificing right now in this country for some of us to tear others down with our words.

- The least we can say is “Thank you!”

Just say the word.

- Just say the word that will turn a frown into a smile.
- Just say the word that will offer hope instead of gloom.

- Just say the word that could bring a miracle into someone's life today.

When they think that all is lost...

- Just say the word that let's them know they're going to make it.

When they think they can't go on any more...?

- Just say the word that tells them they can.

“ Jesus, just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed.”

- Who can you heal from where you are right now?
- Who can you encourage?
- Who can you pray for?
- Who can you speak life to this week?