

# *The Power of Our Confession*

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace Church located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

GRACE PUBLICATIONS  
P.O. BOX 18715  
BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 1999

Grace Publications is a ministry of  
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i> .....	5
<i>Chapter 1</i> .....	6
<i>THE THINGS WE TALK OURSELVES INTO</i>	
<i>Chapter 2</i> .....	10
<i>RIGHT THINKING EQUALS A RIGHT CONFESSION</i>	
<i>Chapter 3</i> .....	13
<i>THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER</i>	
<i>Chapter 4</i> .....	19
<i>MINISTER GRACE TO THE HEARERS</i>	
<i>CONCLUSION</i> .....	27



## INTRODUCTION

Every person who is having any kind of spiritual problem talked himself into it. He confessed his way into the problem by reflecting the projections and initiations of the demons in the air instead of resisting them.

That is why, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will give an account for every idle word we have spoken. Jesus said, "...for by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (see Matthew 12:36-37). Can you see why it is important for us to let our words on earth be few?

Our confessions can be very powerful. The words we speak go out into the atmosphere and are heard by those involved in the unseen warfare: God's angels as well as Satan's demons. This booklet will examine the effects of negative conversation and the benefits we will have from a right confession.

*Chapter One*

THE THINGS WE TALK  
OURSELVES INTO

“My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart: and my lips shall utter knowledge clearly” (Job 33:3).

“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few” (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell” (James 3:6).

Emotional reactions to life can produce satanic consequences. A negative confession is like bacteria. Picture that coming out of your mouth and what it does to your heart and to your soul. Every time you utter those words, more infections are spread as the bacteria multiply.

“My lips shall utter praise, when thou has taught me thy statutes” (Psalm 119:171). These words were said by Ezra as a teenager in captivity in Babylon. He was taught the doctrine of God’s Word, and his lips did utter praise even while he was going through unimaginable trials. It is so vital that we learn to think in terms of the Finished Work, regarding the heart and the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23).

When we allow our words to condemn our life, those words can affect so many different areas. We can talk ourselves into depression by confessing our thoughts into the air. Satan and his demons can’t read our minds, but the moment we say what we are thinking, we have given them ground for their attack.

### *Sins of the Mouth and a Tongue of Iniquity*

“A man’s belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth: and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” (Proverbs 18:20-21).

“Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy

voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?" (Ecclesiastes 5:6).

The mouth can cause the flesh to sin, and God becomes angry at the voice that confesses anything that is not according to the law of faith. When we sin with our mouth, we are not just to say, "That was an error. I shouldn't have said it." That is not repentance. We have to specifically confess our sin to God.

When the mouth causes the flesh to sin, we have violated the law of faith and the royal law of love. When we say something negative to or about our spouse, that causes our flesh to sin against them.

Also, through careless comments, we can release sexual vibrations that in turn can cause sinful relationships. The mouth, with its tiny member called the tongue, releases the relationship to sin.

Recently I spoke with a man and a woman who were dating, and I asked them frankly: "Is your relationship a no-touch relationship as you prepare for marriage?" (1 Corinthians 7:1).

"Well," one of them told me, "it's been awfully hard." The moment they confessed that it was difficult, they had already caused their flesh to sin.



I found just the opposite in dating my wife for seven years. Keeping pure was easy because I refused to confess that it was hard. I determined that I would only have pure thoughts. Anything else would have led to frustration and to personal sin down the road. I had no right to do that, so I didn't do it. It wasn't hard. Jesus' yoke is easy and His burden is light.

To confess that something is "hard" is to set yourself up for failure. You are actually confessing that what you are doing is all in the flesh.

It is important to realize that death and life are in the power of the tongue, according to Proverbs 18:21. Every time we open our mouth to speak, we have a decision to make. Do we want to have a tongue of iniquity, motivated by the fire of hell? Or, will we confess that we are taking on Christ's yoke?

Bona fide love is based on faith, not feelings. Examine what love really is. Do you think that Jesus had great feelings of love for those who were spitting at Him as He died on the Cross? Of course not. He felt terrible. But He obeyed His Father and said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." That was His confession: "Forgive them."

## *Chapter Two*

# RIGHT THINKING EQUALS A RIGHT CONFESSION

“I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.

“I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation” (Psalm 40:9-10).

The Psalmist did not refrain his lips from preaching righteousness. He confessed positive, edifying, Finished Work messages of the imputation and the impartation of God’s righteousness.

There are many who draw near unto God with their mouths and their lips, yet their hearts are far from Him (Matthew 15:8). The Word is in our mouths and in our hearts. We don’t need to summon God to our side to hear us. Instead, we

confess words of faith from hearts guarded by the Word of God, and we draw near to Him.

### *The Rule of Faith*

“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).

As we confess the Word by faith, we are delivered. That verse in Romans 10 is not just about salvation, though that certainly could be applied. Actually, this letter was written to a church full of people who were already saved, but they needed to be set free from bondage to the flesh.

Our confession will deliver us. Consider that carefully, and don't be familiar with the Word of God. We are to confess the Lord Jesus Christ. Whether it is an important business meeting, a counseling session, or a family discussion, we will always have issues to deal with. Yet in every situation, we should only have to confess the Lord Jesus. There isn't a thing you or I can do with a problem. In fact, everyone involved usually knows what the problem is and knows what to do, if they would look at the Word of God.

This is the key: Continually thinking right

things starts out with continually confessing right things. Then, regardless of how we feel or what the situations appear to be and without emotional experiences, we start confessing the Lord Jesus. Because of the law of faith, not a thing can stop our confession (Ecclesiastes 5:6). By the law of faith, we communicate that confession to demons, angels, the world, and ourselves.

### *Chapter Three*

## THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

“Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

“And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

“And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

“And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

“Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

“And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and

the keepers before the door kept the prison.

“And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from him hands.

“And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

“And he went out, and followed him; and wist, not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

“When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

“And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews” (Acts 12:1-11).

People need our prayers. Prayer must be part of our confession to the atmosphere. Beginning with the most serious cases—troubled mar-

riages, sicknesses, finances—go to God and pray without ceasing.

In Genesis 18:20-23, the Lord told Abraham of the destruction that would come upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham stood before God and said, “Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?” Then he prayed for the cities, asking the Lord to spare them for the sake of fifty righteous, then forty, then thirty, then twenty, and, finally, he asked that they be spared for the sake of ten righteous.

Ten righteous could not be found in Sodom, but “it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow...” (Genesis 19:29).

It doesn't say that the Lord responded to Lot at all. God remembered Abraham. Abraham prayed, and his prayer delivered Lot, because God remembered his prayer.

### *Prayer Puts Angels into Action*

What happened in the situations that hindered Lot and Peter is described in Psalm 35:5: “Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the Lord chase them.” God's angels will eliminate the source of the damage coming

to us.

How did God deliver Lot? With Lot's angels. How did Peter get delivered in Acts 12? By angels. Prayers were heard, and God sent the angels to deliver Peter. And according to Psalm 35:5, the angels will drive away the enemies that seek to destroy our soul.

This is a fantastic principle. It is difficult to describe the concept of individual power that comes to a person who—no matter what age—is filled with the Spirit and prayer. What's more, we can't begin to fathom what a person who prays without ceasing can do for someone else. The angels will chase away the chaff.

“And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

“And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

“And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

“But the word of God grew and multiplied” (Acts 12:21-24).

The angel of the Lord eliminated the source of the persecution against Peter.



First, a man prays. Second, he keeps on praying. Third, he confesses that God has heard his prayer. He doesn't even consider that his prayer is not going to be answered. He doesn't receive negativity, and he doesn't confess a negative thought to anyone.

The prayers are offered, and immediately, the angels come on the scene. Lot was taken out of Sodom and Gomorrah. Peter was released from prison. Then, Herod died. God eliminated the source of trouble.

### *Confess Calvary's Love*

Either we have God's love, or we do not. Intense feelings are merely the result of emotions. If it is God's love, it is derived from Calvary and confesses the Word of God to the air and to our angels. When this happens, our angels go to work to deliver us in times of need.

If we never confess our negativity as sin to God and never really repent but continue to say the same things, the things that we want to happen will not happen. God lets the angels bring to nought the things we desire because our confessions are not of faith and our lives are not confessing His righteousness.

The Word of God makes it clear that the an-

gels are looking in at the events of our lives (1 Corinthians 4:9) and to our salvation (1 Peter 1:12). They encamp around us (Psalm 34:7), and they are always ready to minister to us (Hebrews 1:14).

“He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction” (Proverbs 13:3).

Our confession should always be of faith, “that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure...” (see Romans 4:16a). Abide in God without changing, even when circumstances change. Confess God’s truth when your feelings are bankrupt. No one will know it, because just as a wrong confession can make the flesh sin, a godly confession makes the heart get right with God.

*Chapter Four*

MINISTER GRACE  
TO THE HEARERS

“My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips” (Psalm 63:5).

“My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed” (Psalm 71:23).

“My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips” (Psalm 89:34).

Do not alter a godly confession. We will not talk on the phone and say, “Things are still bad.” We will confess that things are good. We trust in God alone. Just as we did at salvation, we trust in Christ by faith. Therefore, if our enemies take us up to slay us because of our faith in Christ, we must not alter our confession. If we die because of our confession (Esther 4:16; Hebrews 11:36-39), we will go home to be with God and be blessed.

We talk ourselves into sin. We talk ourselves into sickness, into depression, into despair. We talk ourselves into presumptuous thoughts against others about things that are not real.

Christians should never be negative toward one another. Doing so causes us to sin and gives a place for the devil to take over. When communication about a problem is necessary, we are to speak the truth in love. We allow our speech to be seasoned with the resurrection life of Christ (Colossians 4:6) because we sit where they sit (Ezekiel 3:15). That kind of communication isn't threatening; it isn't reactionary; it isn't retaliation; it isn't blaming. It is communicating the wonderful truth of love and resurrection power. We sit where they sit instead of blaming them for where they are sitting.

### *Sacrifices of Praise*

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Hebrews 13:15).

“With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth” (Psalm 119:13).

By the fruit of our lips, we give thanks to God for His characteristics, which are related to His name. “Judgment” speaks of doctrine. With

our lips we declare the categories of His Word.

Living by every word of God with a heart that dwells richly with Christ, the believer can say, “I will confess what God says, and that is all I will confess. I will not confess negatives. I will not confess defeat. I will not confess frustration. I will not confess depression. I will not confess that I do not have love. I will not confess a single negative thing.”

According to Galatians 5:6, we are to do everything through faith that works by love. That verse says “faith.” It doesn’t say “feelings.” This faith is given by Jesus Christ, and His love is shed abroad by the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 2:16, 20; Romans 5:5).

“Well, I feel terrible,” you say. “What am I going to do?”

You can only do one of two things: Believe God or not. Choose life or choose death. But don’t choose death—that would put you under a curse. Instead, choose life that you may live and be blessed of God. (See Deuteronomy 30:15-19).

### *The Mouth of Justification*

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the

hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

I minister edification to my wife because Ephesians 4:29 says that if I love God, that is what I will do. If I don't know God's love, I will confess bad circumstances, financial problems, health problems—and every negative thing. But these things can't have a place in a believer who walks in faith that pleases God, the One who rewards those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6).

There is a very close connection between the individual and the words that he says. This is why God says, "I am in heaven, you are on the earth. Therefore, keep your words very few on the earth" (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

The point is this: Every time I open my mouth, either it justifies me or it condemns me (Matthew 12:37). My angel is listening to my confession. Based upon that confession, either I am delivered with the Holy Spirit's inner strength and the divine providential plan of His ministry, or the works of my hands are destroyed because of my wrong confession.

It was Abraham, through an angel, who helped get Lot out of Sodom—Lot had nothing to do with it. It was the Church's prayers and an angel that released Peter from jail. But it was

also an angel who destroyed Herod when he refused to confess the power of God.

### *A Positive Confession in the Call*

I was thinking about all the students at our Bible college. These precious students come from all over the world—from New York to Las Vegas, from Brazil to Russia, from New England to the Pacific Northwest. The amazing plan of God has brought Christians from all these cities and countries to a Bible college where they learn to know God and to know each other. As God does this, He teaches them how to develop the character of faith in the nature of love through the discipline of grace according to the Word of Life.

Sometimes, God will call us to leave our present location to have a new challenge of adventure. Once we respond to that call, we should continue until all that we are supposed to learn is fulfilled, and the character of faith is developed in us. Walking by faith causes us to depend totally on the Lord, to have God mystically come through for us in situations that could otherwise overwhelm us. And all the time, we are to confess faith in the Word of God.

## *Right Speaking, Right Emotions*

Wherever you are at today, the one thing that is going to bring you through is the confession that governs your heart.

Many times as a believer, you have experienced situations that haven't felt good, yet your confession remained godly. Eventually, through the Holy Spirit, that confession becomes anointed and you actually experience what you have been confessing in your heart without tangible evidence or emotional confirmations.

“Yea, my [emotions] shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things” (Proverbs 23:16). Speaking the right things causes the emotions to rejoice. If I don't speak right things, then my emotions will reinforce my negative communication, which is based on iniquity (James 3:5-6). I speak from the fires of hell when I am under the negative power of emotional reaction to the apparent reality of circumstances and sight.

“Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer” (Proverbs 24:26).

Do you want to settle a marital problem? Just start confessing God. Then the other party will kiss your lips—and it will be a good old-fashioned marital kiss.



Job's wife spoke foolishly when she told her husband to "curse God and die" (Job 2:9-10). She was a foolish woman in that she didn't think with God, which would have produced healthy emotions. Therefore, her speech governed her emotions instead of her lips rejoicing in the truth.

The Word of God has so much to say about this subject:

"The lip of truth shall be established forever: but the lying tongue is but for a moment" (Proverbs 12:19).

"Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (Psalm 141:3).

"A divine sentence is in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment" (Proverbs 16:10).

"Hear now my reasoning, and hearken to the pleadings of my lips" (Job 13:6).

"That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform, even a free will offering, according as thou has vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth" (Deuteronomy 23:23).

If you say something with your lips, and you keep on confessing it, it shall be performed. Contrast that thought with what is found in Job

15:6: "Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I: yea, thine own lips testify against thee." This happens so many times.

The next time you are faced with a problem, let your lips speak godly truth to determine your will instead of letting your will control your lips. Then, by faith, your godly confession will control your heart, soul, and mind.

## CONCLUSION

When God's power controls a person's life, the effects are dynamic, revealing the grace of God's purpose for each of us. Circumstances are not going to change us. The car might break down every other day in the worst heat of the summer—but that doesn't stop a man of God. God didn't call us to failure. So when everything seems to be going wrong, the way to glorify Him is to refuse to confess a negative thought.

Confess God's truth in every situation. For instance, you may want a certain job. But if it hasn't happened, let your confession be according to God's character. That kind of confession releases the Son's faith through His love shed abroad in us by the Holy Spirit.

Our faith is in Jesus Christ's words. That is how we deal with problems in a relationship, with our finances, with our weaknesses, and with our sicknesses. We need to confess God's provision continually. Confess God's power, His

grace, and His love. If circumstances seem to say, "No," we simply confess, "Yes! God will come through." He will keep us during times of trouble. Out of our hearts will come the confession that Christ is real, and what He has said will come to pass.