

June 27, 2021

## The Power of Words

by Ken Weliever

A 21st century Jewish Rabbi shared this striking statement about the power of words:

“Words are singularly the most powerful force available to humanity. We can choose to use this force constructively with words of encouragement, or destructively use words of despair. Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate and to humble.”

This statement brings to mind the truth of Proverbs 16:24. “Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.”

I was further reminded of this fact the other day at breakfast in Bainbridge, Ohio, that Matt Allen, Cain Atkinson, and I shared with Dan DeGarmo. Dan said he sent out an email that morning to his church family with just three words: Engage. Encourage. Elevate.

Immediately, I said, “That sounds like a blog post,” as I grabbed my phone to record them. They all laughed. But those words impacted me, and I hope you will find them impactful as well.

### Engage

To engage is to be involved. To commit oneself to something. To draw another person in. To participate.

Christianity is a religion of engagement. Not self-centered insulation. The Bible

calls the church the family of God (Eph. 1:5; 3:15). God is our Father. Jesus Christ is our elder brother. And we’re brothers and sisters born again into one spiritual family.

The very essence of fellowship requires engagement. It is joint participation. Sharing in common. Communion. Comradship. And companionship.

We’re brothers and sisters who care enough to “bear one another’s burdens” (Gal. 6:1-2).

### Encourage

Engagement leads to encouragement. To encourage is to inspire, embolden, and hearten. It suggests “the raising of one’s confidence, especially by an external agency.” Christians are to be agents of encouragement.

The 59 “one another” commands in the Bible speak to the importance of our mutual engagement with each other. Here are just a few.

“Be devoted to one another” (Rom. 12:10).

“Admonish one another” (Col. 3:16).

“Serve one another” (Gal. 5:13).

“Be kind to one another” (Eph 4:32).

“Bear one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:1-2).

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

## Important Dates

Bulverde is having their summer series “Gifts We Can Use For God” each Thursday through August 19.

The Lakewood Drive church of Christ in Georgetown will be having a singing on July 17 at 6:00 p.m.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

“Forgive one another” (Col. 3:13).

“Love one another” (Jn. 13:34).

“Encourage one another (1Thess. 5:11).

### **Elevate**

To elevate is to lift. To heighten. To boost. To raise to a higher position. To lift one’s spirits.

When we’re engaged in God’s family, practice the “one another” commands of encouragement, it raises us all to a higher level of living. Of learning. And of loving.

We elevate each other by giving preference to one another in honor (Rom. 12:10). By looking out for the interests of others (Phil. 3:4). And by praying for each other (Jas. 5:16).

When we elevate each other, we view our brothers and sisters in a new light. We see them as fellow heirs. We see their uniqueness.. We see their value. And we elevate each other spiritually to achieve greater goals and ultimately see our heavenly reward.

As we were leaving and Dan was getting in his truck, he hollered, “There’s one more. Empower.”

That’s right. Words are meaningless without empowerment. We find empowerment in God’s Word and through prayer. And seek to empower others in a ministry that engages. Encourages. And elevates.

Empowerment also speaks to putting our principles and precepts into practice. Of going beyond sweet words, but doing good deeds.

As the ancient Chinese philosopher Zhuang Zhou is crediting with saying, “When deeds and words are in accord, the whole world is transformed.” And I would add so also is the family of God.

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## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** developed an infection and is back in the hospital.

**Doug Adair** is struggling with back pain and is seeking a second opinion before deciding on treatment.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing cancer treatments.

**Nancy Richardson** is doing better but still dealing with breathing problems.

**Sue Stanberry** has moved into assisted living.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes.

**Morgan O’Hair** is waiting to see another doctor to treat an infection.

**Dinah Williams** continues to be homebound due to mobility issues. She had a small fire at her house last week and is staying at the Comfort Inn while repairs are being made.

**Bobbie Gibbons** continues to be limited by balance and breathing issues.

**Tyler Hairston** has cancer.

**Don and Alene Simmons** are both suffering from pain and mobility limitations.

**Dorothy Steadman** is continuing to recover from her recent stroke. She is staying with Hank in Houston.

**Gordon Calley** will be having a procedure on July 9 and the family requests prayers on his behalf.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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