

The Importance of Words

Introduction

A. Consider the place of words – communication – in our daily life.

1. While there can be communication without words – we usually translate such communication into mental words. Or they were so translated to us at one time.

- a. The ballpark: a man extending both hands palms down – the runner is safe.
- b. The highway: the variety of communication by arrows and other symbols.

2. The dictionary gives an interesting list of how we use words.

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| Give the word to start. | A man of his word . |
| Give the password . | They had words . |
| By word of mouth. | In a word . |
| The Word . | To be as good as one's word . |
| To break one's word . | To eat one's words . |
| To have a word with. | To mince words . |
| To take one at his word . | To take the words out of one's mouth. |
| To say it in a word . | |

B. The Bible refers to words in many ways.

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. Prov 10:19

Do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. Ecc 5:2

Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!"... "But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless." Jer 7:4,8 (See also 2 Kings 18:20; Is 36:5; Eph 5:6; 1 Tim 1:6; 1 Peter 3:10)

C. The most important Biblical reference to words has to do with the Lord Jesus.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1,14

D. These few references bring an important truth before us. **“If our words are limited in meaning to us – then when we use those words – there is limitation of value.”**

Example: When a parent says “Stop it” to a child without enforcing the words. The words are only sounds to the child. They hesitate and then continue to do what they were doing.

Example: When a trusted leader lies. What basis is there for future trust?

Example: When one does not have a correct context to explain a word – the meaning may be highly limited: love, justice, family values, responsibility, or one of the names of God.

I. The Importance of the Words: “*Out of His glorious riches.*”

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, Eph 3:16

A. A limited explanation of Paul’s statement.

1. This second prayer in Ephesians is an expression of God’s will for believers. We need to be concerned for His will in our daily life and therefore we should often pray this prayer for ourselves and for others.
2. The words before us “*out of His glorious riches*” is presented as the **limitless measure** of God’s desire, love, and provision for us. Consider how **rich** God us.
3. The words “*out of His glorious riches*” undoubtedly refer to all the requests in the prayer and is picked up again in Verse 20 where it is developed to some degree.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us ...

B. Consider the meaningfulness of these words as applied to request # 1.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being. Eph 3:16

The riches of His Person.
The riches of His decrees.
The riches of His love.

The riches of His grace.
The riches of His mercy.
The riches of his revelation.

- C. When we pray with even a limited understanding of what these words mean – the result could have a deepening meaning for us and open the door for the Holy Spirit to minister more fully to us. Does God always overrule or ignorance of laziness in our use of words?

II. Examples of Paul’s Use of the Words “*Riches*” in Ephesians.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Eph 1:7

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints. Eph 1:18

In order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:7

Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. Eph 3:8

Conclusion: When we pray it will help to consider the meaning of our words.

