

“Say It Loud; Say It Like You Mean It”

By Ken Avellino

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Thanks Parrish. You know, in the eighth grade, I think there's a hundred eighty days a year of school, of those one hundred and eighty days, I think one-seventy-eight of those I was in the principal's office. The other one I was sick, and the other one was a field day. But, every time I was in the principal's office, the question always came out, “Young man, who do you think you are?” and, then when I would get in trouble at home, my mother's favorite was either that, or, “Who died and left you boss?” and I would always give the answer, “I don't know,” or, “nobody,” but, I said all that to say who God is. And, as we read the Scriptures, and Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do men say that I am?” There is power in what you say. There is power when you verbally, you confess Jesus Christ being Savior. Now, sometimes, not where our mouths, but with our actions, we say He's just another man. And, yet, we've been baptized in his name, we're following Christ, we're confessing him, but, yet, in our actions, sometimes, we slide off, and He becomes just another man, a prophet, He becomes John the Baptist. So we have to consciously, every day, say who He is; He is the Christ, the son of the Living God. There is power in saying it, not just thinking it. You know, sometimes you're just thinking, and you can get distracted, but sometimes you really have to claim it. Every day, when you wake up, you have to claim it. You know, Jesus said to Peter, “Lovest thou Me?” and he said, “Yes, Lord, I love you.” Then, “Feed my sheep.” And, then, he said it again, and He said, “Feed my Lambs.”, and then He said, “Feed my sheep.” Now, I would think, after a while, that every day, when Peter woke up, the first thing that would hit his head, his mind, he would say, “I love you Lord; I'm going to feed your sheep.” Now, we have to consciously, every day, say, “God, You are my God. You are my Savior. I'm following you.” Because—Parish, you almost preached my message this morning—there's so many things that come at us, every single day, to knock us off track. That's Satan's job.

So, I want to start with the title to the message, “Say It Loud; Say It Like You Mean It.” Say it. And, say it often. There seems to be so much more power when I say something, or confess something. I'll say, “God—” and I'm going to give you an example: the other day, I was having a meltdown day, a tough day, people were calling, I couldn't get things done, the people I was working with weren't cooperating. I felt like my head was going to explode, I felt weak, I felt tired. And, I was driving out to Fox Lake, and I gave it to God. I gave it to God. I didn't just say, “I'm going to give it to you God.” Three times, I screamed as loud as I could, “God, I'm giving this to You! Take it from me, because I can't do it anymore!” When you say things to God, say it often, say it loud, set clear, say it like you mean it, and constantly say it. Because, if it's just one time, or if it's just a glancing, “Okay, God, I need this,” and get back to what you were doing it's not going to have the power. Now, Jesus said, “Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess.” I want to say it now, and bow my knee, now, where God can use me and I can use that power for His glory and to accomplish things in my life. To save me from trouble, when I get in trouble, when things are difficult for me. I don't want to say it at the end when it's too late. I want to say it now, “God, you're my God; You are the Lord of my life.” My first Scripture is going to be from Revelation, chapter five, and verse twelve, and it says:

Revelation 5:12 *Saying [and there's that word 'saying' again] with a loud voice, [and this is the Angel speaking] Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*

So, we have that opportunity, too, when we say it loud, and we say it clear, God gives us that blessing. The more we say it, the more we believe it. You know, even teams do that. They have to say it; they have to psych themselves up. And, not that this is psyching yourself up, but it's keeping it conscious, to the forefront of your mind. Jeremiah, twenty-nine, twelve; it says:

Jeremiah 29:12-13 *Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

Many times I used to say the sinner's prayer before I got saved, "God save me." And, I knew it was right. And, I was confessing that Jesus was the son of God. But, until I sought God with a whole heart, I was able to answer that Scripture, and say "Thou art of the Son of God." But, until then, I was pretty much like the rest of the world. He's just a prophet, He's just John the Baptist. And, then, there was no power in my life. But, when I said, "Jesus, I believe that you are the Son of God," now, I received power to become the son of God. I know who I am, because I know who He is. I know who my confidence is. Instead of the confidence being in me, my confidence is in God, and what God can do for me, and what God can do through me. And, that God can save me from my sins; I couldn't do that for myself. I tried to stop the things that I was doing, but God did it for me when I got baptized in His name. Because I say who God is, I'm able to do things that I never thought I could do. Being up here right now is really not my favorite thing to do. I like to say things very blunt, very short, get to the point, and get out. And, then, just leave you there saying, "What did he just say? Wow!" So, when you seek God with a whole heart you will find Him. And, when you find Him you will understand what that Scripture means. Now, we're focusing on saying, confessing, and the power of that. And, we're talking in the Scripture we just read, "Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb..." That Lamb that died for us, that took our place, that no man can do. God had to do it himself, He had to come down, He had to show us. Now, sometimes, we have to say it for others around us, but sometimes God just wants to hear it from our very mouth, and sometimes God just wants to hear it, so that we can hear what we're saying, so that we're conscious of it, so that it's totally embedded in our hearts and in our minds. By saying it, "Thou art Christ, the son of the Living God." So, Matthew, ten, verse thirty-two. It says:

Matthew 10:32-33 *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

I want to confess that Jesus is the Son of God every minute of every day. I don't want to go off track, because if I go off track, things change. I fall. I don't recognize the power that's around me, and I become slack. I have to be diligent with God's word; I have to verbally say it—and maybe y'all don't have to say it as often as I do, but I have to say it every day, every minute. Otherwise I'll be distracted, I'll fall, I'll get lazy. I can get pretty lazy, believe it or not. Most people that know me, know I never stop moving, but I can get spiritually lazy, if I don't allow God to reign in my life. #9:55#

Another Scripture that I was thinking about was Matthew 8, verse 8. Now this was the Centurion, and he said to Him, "Lord I'm not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only..." How much faith did that man have to say, "speak the word only?" And, that's what I really wanted to get across today. Speak the word. "God, what is Your will for my life?" Speak the miracle, if you need a healing, if you need strength, if you need to learn, seek God. You know, a lot of us have said before, I'll get saved when I'm good enough. I'll get saved when I know enough of the Bible. But, it's not like that; you have to let God reign first. You have to confess Him first. You have to recognize that He's the Lamb of God that was slain for your

sins, and you have to constantly love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, because God first loved us. You know, God said, in the beginning, "Let there be light." God spoke that. And we have to speak things. God spoke to Moses to Moses speak to the Rock. We have to speak. Jesse, you have to speak every day, and say, "I'm going to walk again." Otherwise, you're not going to walk again. So, we have to, every day, seek God with all our heart, all our soul. We have to, you know, we have to seek God like it's the last day on earth. We don't have the promise of tomorrow.

You know, yesterday, I was talking to a friend of mine, and, he's getting divorced. And I said, what are you going to say to your son when he calls you—he's eight years old—and he says, "Dad where are you? When are you coming home?" And he'll be crying. You won't have an answer, and the reason you won't have an answer—and he says, you know, I've been to counseling, and that's kind of bogus; it really didn't do me any good." And I said, "That's because Christ is not the center of your life. If He's just a man, and if He's just a prophet, and if you just know of Him casually... You know if you're an atheist, you don't have to do anything, you don't have to be accountable for anything, but if you say Jesus is the Son of God, there's a lot of accountability that goes with that. For the sake of others, but also for the sake of yourself, for your own life. In Acts eight verse thirty-seven—I love this scripture—it says:

Acts 8:37 *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*

So, when you say that you believe that Christ is the Son of God, and you get baptized in His name, you know the difference of the right and the wrong. You know the difference between religion, you know the difference—just the, I don't want to have just a little bit of religion, I want to have God's fullness, and His presence, I want to recognize that He is the Son of God. I don't want to have just a little bit of religion, I don't want a little bit of—you know, a watered-down Coke. You know, you put some ice in it and all of a sudden the fizz is gone; then it tastes lousy. I want it fresh. I want God's word fresh in my life, every minute of every day. I want to be strong, I want to be ready. And, we all need to be ready to share the Gospel. You know, yesterday when I was talking with that guy, I said, "I'm not going to hold back, I'm going to tell you everything like it is. I'm not going to tell you that it's going to be okay. I'm going to tell you it's going to be tough, and there will not be an answer, there will not be comfort. But there's comfort when you know God, and you let God reign in your life, and you find peace, you will find safety.

Now, in Romans ten, it says if you confess and you believe in your heart. I confessed and I believed in my heart, many times, and I do, still, every day, but when I got baptized, and God took away my sin—see, it's hard to get to that Christ the Son of the Living God when you've got sin standing in your way. And, even today, if I'm not if I'm sinning and I'm not in God's will, there's a blockage between me and God, and therefore, He becomes just a prophet, He's just John the Baptist, He's Jeremiah, no, I have to say, every minute, that He's the Christ, the Son of the Living God. You know, and I'm going to say this in closing, because, it's Mother's Day month: Andrew, if you give your wife something for Mother's Day, and you take her out for dinner—I'm going to get some soup out of this, later on, Sonia's going to make some soup, she always does, she always takes care of me, especially when Abbey or I are sick—and you're going to buy her something, your wife something for Mother's Day, and we're all going to give our Mothers a card, but, if we don't say, "I love you," it doesn't have the impact, as much as it does—a gift is great, and do it, and a card is great, but calling your mom, and saying, "I love you," to hear those words, "Thou art Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus wanted them to know it. He didn't really need to hear it for Himself; He already knows. But, sometimes He just wants you to hear it, like Peter, He wanted him to hear it. And, our spouses, our mothers, our brothers and sisters in the congregation, need to hear that you love them, you appreciate them, that God loves them, that God can do it. You know, even sometimes, I say to my grandson

Daniel, "Daniel, you're an Avellino." And I'll say, "Suck it up, and take it like a man." So, and we say, "Thou art Christ, the Son of the Living God." We have to say it. We have to say it often, we have to say it loud, we'll have to say it clear, we have to say it like we mean it, and we have to say it because it's the truth. God bless you. Thank you for this opportunity.