

Taking God's Word Seriously

by Zac Poonen

Taking God's Word seriously is essential for spiritual progress and victory in life.

Scripture: Isaiah 66:2, Matthew 5:4, Matthew 12:34, Matthew 12:36-37, Colossians 3:19, James 1:26

Topics: "The Importance of Speech", "Taking God's Word Seriously"

Description

Zac Poonen emphasizes the critical importance of taking God's Word seriously, warning that many believers underestimate the weight of their words and the accountability they will face. He highlights Jesus' teaching that every careless word will be judged, urging believers to cleanse their speech to reflect their faith genuinely. Poonen points out that a lack of control over one's tongue indicates a dead faith, and he challenges listeners to examine their speech against God's standards. He stresses that true spiritual progress comes from mourning over sin and taking every command of God seriously, which leads to comfort and victory through the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, he calls for a deep reverence for God's Word as the foundation for a victorious Christian life.

Transcript

A bad habit that many believers have is that of taking God's Word lightly. Take Jesus' words in Matthew 12:36, 37 for example:

"Every careless (idle) word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgement. For by your words you shall be justified and by your words you shall be condemned." Most believers do not believe that they will have to literally give an account for every single useless word that they have spoken. When we really believe this, all backbiting, gossiping, evil-speaking and anger will be eliminated from our lives. All who take these words of Jesus seriously will be radical in cutting out useless words from every part of their speech. Jesus says here that we will be justified by our words. We all know about justification by faith. But faith without works is dead, and a faith that does not cleanse our speech is a dead faith. Think of all the words that you have spoken (or written) during the last three months - at home and in the office, to husband, wife, children, servants etc., Would a tape-recording of your speech prove that you are a justified child of God, different from the world around you? Or would your words be similar to the speech of unbelievers?

The speech of many believers has not been cleansed, because they have not taken the words of Jesus seriously. This in turn is because they do not fear God. They fear men more than they fear God. We cannot hope to make spiritual progress in our life if we don't develop the habit of taking God's word

seriously. James 1:26 says, "If any one thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless." If a man cannot control his tongue, his Christianity is worthless - for, as Jesus said, the words we speak show what our heart is like. "The mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart."(Mt.12:34). The way we use our tongue is one of the clearest indications of our spiritual condition.

Here is another example: God's Word says that husbands should never be bitter against their wives."Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them."(Col.3:19).What does that mean?Does it permit a husband to be bitter against his wife EVEN ONCE?We know that when God's Word forbids adultery or murder, we must not commit such sins EVEN ONCE. Yet when we read that a husband should not be bitter against his wife, it does not hit us with the same force. Why is that? It's because we pick and choose which commands of God's Word are serious and which are not. We don't realise that all of God's Word must be taken seriously.

Those who take every word of God seriously will mourn over their sin, each time they fail. Thus they will find the comfort(strength) of the Holy Spirit, and be led into a life of victory,"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."(Mt.5:4).Here then is the secret of victory: Take every Word of God seriously and mourn over your sin whenever you come short of God's standards. Thus you will prove that you fear God - and the fear of God is the beginning of that wisdom that leads to a victorious life. God looks with grace and favour at those who are broken and contrite in their spirit and who tremble at His Word. "To this one I will look, declares the Lord, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My Word" (Isa.66:2).

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/zac-poonen/taking-gods-word-seriously-2/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net