

# **CLEAN HEARTS.... NEW TONGUES**



Our high school math teacher sprang a surprise test on us one warm spring afternoon. We were just getting started. Everything was quiet; you could hear a pin drop in the room, when, suddenly, there was a piercing scream, as the smartest girl in the class fell on the floor and went into convulsions with a seizure.

The next thing we heard was the smartest guy in the class letting out a string of profanity that we didn't know was in him, as he headed for the door with most of the others. This guy was always so cool and collected, always knew the right thing to say. But Mary Jane's seizure scared him to death, and out spilled words which surprised even him. The heck with Mary Jane, get me out of here!

We contain ourselves pretty well most of the time. We don't shock anybody by what we say. Our conversation is civilized. But every once-in-a-while, when we're mad...or scared...or when we see a chance to push our own agenda, we say things that aren't quite true, or fair or kind.

The words that come spilling out of us at such times not only cause harm to others....

**They defile us. They weaken us.**

**They expose to the light what we've been keeping in the dark, even from ourselves.**



***Therefore, putting away falsehood, let every one speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.....Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear.***

If the Spirit of God has come into me, transformed me into a new creation, it will show in two ways:

... The way I act ...

... The way I speak ...

What I often forget is that the way I speak is as important as the way I act.

**Because what comes out of our mouths has power---**

---Power to lift people up and give them hope.

---Power to tear them down and wound them.

And while we are blessing or cursing other people with our words, we are also blessing or cursing ourselves.

Our Lord Jesus, who never wasted a word, has plenty to say about what comes out of our mouths.

***And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand, not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."***

*Matthew 15*

***"Either make the tree good and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of snakes! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.....I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."***

*Matthew 12*

On Pentecost the first thing that happened to these men and women as they received the Spirit was that they spoke with new tongues.

**This was a sign that something miraculous had happened to their hearts.**

The sound of rushing wind was a sign of cleansing, and the flames of fire which came to rest on them...

**... was a sign that holy love had entered them.**

Now they spoke with new tongues....

**Edifying words  
God-Inspiring words  
Life-giving words**

Their old unruly tongues had come under the power of a new Master. They spoke as they had never spoken before. The same thing happened to Paul. As soon as he received the Spirit, he spoke with a new tongue---a sign that God had given him a new heart. *"And all who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem?'"*

When God gives us a new heart, the tongue comes under his power.

It's a new tongue.

When this tongue speaks, its words have power. Things happen.

Picture what would happen if the Spirit came down on our churches one Sunday like he came down on those believers at Pentecost. We would all walk out of our churches with new tongues. Maybe we wouldn't be speaking in other languages as they did. Perhaps we'd just be speaking English.

But our words would ....

**uplift  
encourage  
heal  
awaken faith.**

People would be drawn into our churches by those words.

But here's what we often miss: before the Spirit gives you a new tongue....

**...He first gives you a new heart.**

***"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."***

**When the heart is filled with God, the tongue speaks words from God.**

And our hearts will be ready for God's Spirit as soon as we are willing to let God give our hearts a supernatural housecleaning.

That's what happened to King David.

David was the one who wrote all those beautiful Psalms.

David was as fair and decent a king as Israel ever had.

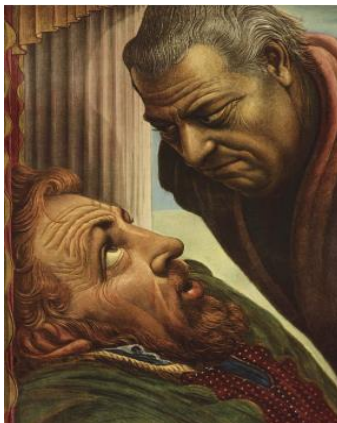
But slowly David's spirit began to dry up.

He became more wrapped up in his own glory than God's glory.

He began to take liberties. After all, he was the king, and he could do what he wanted.

One day David wanted another man's wife. So he took her. Things got complicated. One sin led to another, until he found himself ordering her husband's death. David remained blind to the mess he was making of all these lives, including his own, until the prophet, Nathan, nailed him.

*"You're the man! Look what you've done! Look at it! You are under the judgment of God!"*



At last David is awake to the mess he has made of his life, and all those other lives.

No wonder he cannot write psalms any more.

No wonder he cannot speak words from God.

### **His heart is unclean!**

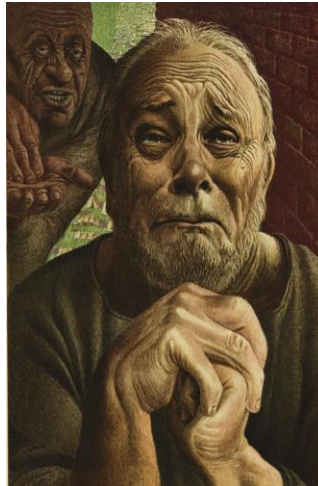
Now David repents. He comes to God for house cleaning.

***Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,***

*Psalm 51:1-4*

David is repenting.

Confessing to God what he did, crying out for forgiveness and cleaning.



***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.***

*Psalm 51: 13-15*

**When my heart is clean, my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**

**Clean heart, new tongue.**

Sometimes we don't realize what a mess we are "inside," until it gets jarred by a shock, and out it spills.

But God knows what's in us. And if he could give David a new heart, he can do the same for us.

Once God house cleans our hearts, we soon have tongues to match.

**Tongues that sing aloud of his righteousness....**

**Tongues that impart hope.**

To receive a clean heart from God, and a new tongue to match, we need to do two things:

1. Draw near to God, just the way we are, repenting of whatever we know about ourselves.
2. Draw near to the cross of the Lord Jesus to receive forgiveness, cleansing and the power of the Spirit.

### **Draw near to God and repent**

Many people have the idea that they cannot draw near to God until they "get their act together." If you wait until you "get your act together" you will never come.

Come the way you are, saying, "Here I am, Lord God. I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. I know how self-centered, impatient, judgmental and vain I am. I confess it. I repent before you."



### **Draw near to the cross to receive forgiveness**

Draw near to His cross, even if we don't understand the mystery of its power. We open our hearts to receive his forgiveness, his cleansing, the power of his Spirit. "Lord Jesus, wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin .... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Flood me with your Spirit, Lord!"

That's all it takes.

Who of us would not like to see our churches filled every Sunday? Who of us would not like to see new faces drawn into our fellowships and receiving blessings beyond words?

We can be sure that God wants this more than we do. And he will give us the one thing that will make it happen:

**A new tongue.**

We don't need gimmicks.

We don't need celebrity "Christian" entertainment to draw people into our churches.

**We need to receive from God a tongue....**

**A tongue that knows how to "sustain with a word him that is weary."**



**Such a tongue is exactly what God longs to give each of us.**

And we will receive a new tongue, when we let God come in and house clean our hearts. Who else, but God can house clean these hearts?

Are we willing to open up and simply invite the Lord to come in and do whatever it takes to make us clean within?

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me....  
Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud  
of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.***



*Prayer: Oh Lord, we confess that again and again the words that pour out of our hearts are filthy. They degrade, they hurt, they are life draining. How can we claim you or bring life to anyone when we keep defiling ourselves with our words? Lord, we want it to stop. We want to change. Help us, Lord. Fix our hearts. Flood us with your Spirit, because we cannot fix this ourselves. We give up. Cleanse us. Give us new hearts so that we have new tongues too, so that we can truly sustain the weary with words of hope and encouragement, so that, yes, we can edify, uplift, heal, and awaken faith in the broken, and so that we can be so filled with joy that we continually sing aloud of the wonder and beauty of who you are. Amen.*

Message: Richard E. Bieber 2009

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THE LAMB  
WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN