

Offering Message: We continued our lesson on the four types of giving focusing this week on First Fruits. When agriculture was the main source of income people honored God by giving him the "first fruits" of their harvest. For us, it is like when we get a raise and give God the difference between our old income and our new income from our first paycheck to honor God for our increase.

Proverbs 3:9-10

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Lesson:

We continued our discussion of Matthew 5:33-37 and being a person of our word so that people can beilieve us and trust what we say. Then we discussed another reason why Jesus wants us to be people of our word. Because our words are powerful but if we don't speak the truth, we weaken all the words that we use.

We talked about how when God speaks, it happens. God is truth and can only speak truth therefore his words have power and whatever he speaks happens. It must happen or else it would not have been the truth.

We talked about how Jesus walked the Earth as a man with the all the power and authority that God gave to man and performed many miracles. Jesus never lied and everything he said was the truth. He spoke with his mouth and believed what he said in his heart and had faith with absolutely no doubt. He spoke with the authority given to him by God.

We learned that by our faith, we have the same power that Jesus had when he was a man on Earth. We must speak with our mouth and believe what we say in our heart and have full faith with absolutely no doubt. But, if we live a life full of lies our words lose their power because we cannot believe what we say in our heart. We doubt what we say because it may not be the truth.

Bible Verse: Genesis 1:3

3 And God said, "Let there be light", and there was light.

Bible Verse: Mark 4:39

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Bible Verse: Mark 10:52

52 "Go", said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Bible Verse: John 5:8

8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

Bible Verse: Matthew 17:20

20 ...Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Bible Verse: Mark 11:23

23 Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.

Bible Verse: Mark 16:17-18

17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 They will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

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