

# Words Have Power

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*V for Vendetta*, a dystopian political action film that debuted in 2005, portrays an England of the near future ruled by a fascist and authoritarian regime which maintains control over the people through constant propaganda, and imprisonment or execution of dissidents.

The protagonist was a vigilante wearing a Guy Fawkes mask who called himself “V”. During the film, on November 5, V hijacked the state-run television network BTN to address the nation. He described the tyranny imposed for many years on the people through fear and terror perpetrated by the state. Freedom of speech, once a prominent and precious right, was long removed from society by the iron fist of the state. V made this point in his address:

“While the truncheon may be used in lieu of conversation, words will always retain their power. Words offer the means to meaning, and for those who will listen, the enunciation of truth.”



V then encouraged the people of England to stand against the regime by joining him outside the now vacant House of

Parliament in one year's time on Guy Fawkes Night. His words, and subsequent actions in the film, motivated the people by the thousands to cease complying with their tyrannical rulers and show up the following November 5 to peacefully protest outside the House of Parliament. The military, instead of shooting at the people, stood down. The film ended with the collapse of the regime and hope for a free England.

The power of words to bring about significant change, to create great things or cause catastrophic destruction, cannot be underestimated. By the Word of God, the universe sprang into existence. The smallest subatomic particle to the largest galaxy is sustained by the word of His power (Genesis 1; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-4). It was by God's word that the Great Flood was brought forth to destroy the ancient world of the ungodly but preserve Noah and his family (2 Peter 2:5).

Most of us are probably familiar with the traditional Black spiritual, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands", first published in *Spirituals Triumphant, Old and New* in 1927. It paints a picture of God's great love for humanity and His mighty sustaining power over all creation. This song is a reminder of the words of the apostle Paul in Colossians 1:16-17,

**"For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."**

According to Proverbs 9:10, the fear of the Lord God is the beginning of wisdom. An important aspect of this fear, or reverence, of God is the recognition that we do not live by physical nourishment alone but by every word that proceeds from His mouth (Matthew 4:4).

Because God's word is so powerful, it cannot fail to

accomplish what He wills (Isaiah 55:10-11; Ephesians 1:11). It is guaranteed by Him to be effective. And that means we can trust what He says to not only be true but come to pass. When the Father says that whoever trusts solely on the merits and promises of His one and only Son, Jesus, will have eternal life as a gift, that word is as effectively powerful as when He spoke the universe into existence (John 3:16).

The Word of God is able to bring healing to heart, mind and body. He can deliver from all kinds of seemingly insurmountable obstacles that we sometimes face. The Lord by His word works out all the events and circumstances of our lives for our good, justifies us before God, and brings us into glory (Romans 8:28-30).

God's word brings lives from death to life, nourishes the soul, imparts instruction, guidance, and wisdom. It provides comfort, perseverance, and peace in what often appears to be a chaotic, threatening, and hopeless world.

The most famous part of Georg Friedrich Händel's (1685-1759) *Messiah* is the *Hallelujah* chorus (number 44). But immediately prior to this are numbers 40-43, which sings portions of Psalm 2 depicting the world's rejection of the gospel and God's ultimate victory.

"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.' He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." (Psalm 2:1-4)

**"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. "** (Psalm 2:9)

Jesus, God's Anointed, brings us encouragement and hope in a world under the seemingly irresistible control of Satan and those allied with him. Though they fancy themselves to be all

powerful, the combined efforts of the kings of the earth, the World Economic Forum, and the United Nations, are not strong enough to overcome the Word of God. He has the final say because He is God, and they are not.

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and **His name is called The Word of God**. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. **From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron;** and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Revelation 19:11-16)

Words have power, and their power depends on the one who speaks them. The Word of God, Jesus Christ, has all power and authority in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18-20). Psalm 2 concludes by proclaiming how blessed are all who put their trust in Him.

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