INTRODUCTION TO
UNITY OUTLINES:
LESSON 10: THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN ...
"INTRODUCTION TO UNITY"
A synoptic study of the teachings of Unity in 24 lessons.

LESSON 10 — "THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD"

OBJECTIVE: A study of the Creative Word of God, and of the importance of watching our words: "WORDS and thoughts have molding power, so let us be careful, knowing that we're building our Eternity."

UNITY TEXT SOURCES: Chapter 9, "HOW I USED TRUTH" (Cady)
Chapter 6, "JESUS CHRIST HEALS" (Fillmore)
Chapter 6, "CHRISTIAN HEALING" (Fillmore)
Chapter 10, "LET GOD HELP YOU" (M. Fillmore)
Pages 166-172, "TEACH US TO PRAY" (Fillmore)


POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED:
1. WORDS ARE THE MOST POWERFUL AGENTS OF THE MIND. Every time we speak we cause the atoms of the body to tremble and change places, and the vibration of the others around us to influence all things in proximity to us.

2. IF ANY WORDS HAVE POWER, ALL WORDS HAVE POWER. Therefore it is not in the few moments of prayer and meditation that we demonstrate the power of words, but in the long hours between our times of prayer. "Every idle word that men shall speak they shall give account thereof."

3. KEEPING THE WORDS OF CHRIST. Jesus said "My words are life and they are spirit." He did not say they have life and spirit. When He said "Keep my words" he did not mean that we should give lip service to Him. Voicing His words is affirming our own divine relationship with the Creative word of God which must be embodied in our daily living.

4. THE MYSTERY OF HOLY COMMUNION. An understanding of the Creative Word reveals the mystery of the Holy Eucharist. To "eat his flesh" and to "drink his blood" means to lay hold of and assimilate the Truth He spoke and to drink in His consciousness of life.

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN WORK:
1. How would you define the Word as used in John 1?
2. How are death and life in the power of the tongue?
3. Explain how we give an account for "every idle word."
4. What is the result when man's word conforms to the divine law?
5. What ideas make constructive words?

NEXT WEEK; "DEMONSTRATING THE LAW"

SUGGESTED READING REFERENCES:
Ch. 3, "JESUS CHRIST HEALS" (Fillmore)
Ch. 3, "WHAT ARE YOU?" (Shanklin)
Ch. 9, "ATOM SMASHING POWER OF MIND" (Fillmore)
Ch. 6, "SELECTED STUDIES" (Shanklin)
Ch. 4,5, "PROSPERITY" (Fillmore)
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Chapter 10, "HOW TO LET GOD HELP YOU" (M. Fillmore)
Pages 166-172, "TEACH US TO PRAY" (Fillmore)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Deut. 30:12-14; Job 22:38; Psalms 19:14; Psalms 141:3;
Prov. 16:21; Prov. 21:23; Jer. 23:36; Matt. 11:21; Matt. 12:36, 37; Matt. 15:11;

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LESSON 10--THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD

OBJECTIVE: To study the creative word of God and the importance of watching our words. "Words and thoughts have molding power, so let us careful be, knowing that we're building our eternity."


POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. WORDS ARE THE MOST POWERFUL AGENTS OF MIND. Each time we speak the atoms of the body tremble and change places, and the vibration influences all things near us.

2. IF ANY WORD HAS POWER, ALL WORDS HAVE POWER. It is not in the few moments of prayer and meditation that we demonstrate the power of words, but in the hours between our times of prayer. "Every idle word that men shall speak they shall give account thereof."

3. KEEPING THE WORDS OF CHRIST. Jesus said "My words are life and they are spirit." He did not say they have life and spirit. When He said "Keep my words" He did not mean that we should give lip service to Him. When we voice His words we affirm our divine relationship with the creative word of God which must be embodied in our daily living.

4. THE MYSTERY OF HOLY COMMUNION. An understanding of the creative word reveals the mystery of the Holy Eucharist. To "eat his flesh" and to "drink his blood" means to receive and assimilate the Truth Jesus spoke and to attain His consciousness of life.

QUESTIONS:

1. Define the Word as used in John 1.
2. How are life and death in the power of the tongue?
3. Explain how man accounts for "every idle word."
4. What is the result when man's word conforms to the divine law?
5. What ideas make constructive words?

NEXT WEEK: DEMONSTRATING THE LAW

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Chapter 9, HOW I USED TRUTH (Cady)
Chapter 6, JESUS CHRIST HEALS (Fillmore)
Chapter 6, CHRISTIAN HEALING (Fillmore)
Chapter 10, HOW TO LET GOD HELP YOU (M. Fillmore)
Pages 166-172, TEACH US TO PRAY (Fillmore)
ATTENTION-GETTING SUGGESTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION: "Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could wake up some morning with the power to change all the undesirable conditions in your life?"

"Stop and think. Whose simple word could change all your adverse conditions? Where lies the power that could make over your environment almost instantly, without breaking the great law of the universe? God! If God said, "Here is health, take it - it is yours freely; it always has been yours, you have but to accept it; here is all the money that you need, take it and use it for good; here is a lovely home, just where you would like best to live, with neighbors and climate most suited to your temperament; here is the work that you would love best to do! -- You would think yourself very foolish and shortsighted to refuse such an offer, wouldn't you?"

And yet -- we may be steadfastly refusing, every day, a gift greater than any of these. A gift that will not only make over your physical condition and environment now, but that will insure your entire future, if you will learn to use the gift aright.

"The word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart that thou mayest do it."

The word of God, the word that heals, cleanses, strengthens, invigorates, renews, creates, in our bodies, in our world, in our universe, aye, even in all the universes that star the infinite expanses of space! "The word of God is nigh unto thee" ready to serve you, awaiting your pleasure, awaiting your acceptance. We must be channels for the word; the word must have us as personal channels to flow through. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."

QUOTATIONS THAT MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL:

"We have two ears and two eyes, but one tongue, in order that we may see and hear twice as much as we speak." (Chinese proverb)

"I met a peacock the other day. If he could have been scored on his first appearance he would have passed with a grade not far from one hundred. But when he opened his mouth the illusion was dispelled. The sounds that came forth did not measure up to his plumage. Then on the train I saw a strange woman who seemed to have had the benefit of all that the modistes, beauty operators, and other specialists can do for one, in addition to having a finely molded face to start with. But when she opened her mouth to speak it was as it had been with the peacock. A lazy voice saying nothing in careless and ungrammatical fashion dispelled the illusion. At once the glory was tarnished." (Anon.)

"Words are the most powerful agents of mind. Every time we speak we cause the atoms of the body to tremble and change their places. Not only do we cause the atoms of our own body to change their position, but we raise or lower the rate of vibration and otherwise affect the bodies of others with whom we come in contact." (Charles Fillmore)

"Peace, power, and plenty,
Words that are heaven-born,
Say them, ye hearts that are weary
Till hope in your soul is born.
For words are things that will lift on wings
The one who believes them true,
And whatever you will when the mind is still
You may call to the soul of you."

(Henry Victor Morgan)
"Until we grasp the difference between the WORD and "words" we will never be able to understand why the heathenish habit of repeating words accomplishes nothing. "Be not like the heathen, who thinks because of vain repetition to gain the ear of God." "But speak the Word" and the deaf shall hear, the blind shall see, etc." (Walter Lanyon - "A Light Set on a Hill")

ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL FROM MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES:

"The Word, which is the bread of life is received in the head (mind) as food is received in the mouth. It is analyzed intellectually, as food is masticated in the mouth. It is analyzed intellectually, as food is masticated in the mouth. It is dropped from the head to the heart, in the same way that food is swallowed into the stomach. It is contemplated in the heart, as food is slowly digested in the stomach."

We hear much in our day about the need of becoming a good conversationalist. It is considered a sign of good taste to be able to engage anyone in conversation regardless of what the conversation might be. Someone has quipped, "At dinner talk is allowable to fling any faggot on the fire rather than let the fire go out." So we go on indulging ourselves in a perpetual babble of thoughtless words, even destructive words, all of which most surely add to the growing confusion in the world. It is time that men stopped talking and started thinking, and then started speaking only when they had something to say -- and even then only when they could say it in a positive and constructive way. Someone has said, "If every one only spoke when he had something to say, what a wonderful world this would be." -- and, we might add, How silent it would be!

One finds something of the stress on the importance of speech in all the great teachings of the East. A boy who became a student under any of the Masters of Egypt, India, Persia, China, or Tibet, was early given instruction in the importance of speaking only when he had something to say that needed to be said and then being careful to say it rightly. The teachings of the Orient had a fine set of standards by which to gauge the quality and value of their speech. Knowing how much damage loose talk does both to the speaker and to listeners, they set up three tests by which to determine whether it was wise to say a thing at all: The first was, Is it true? The second was, Is it kind? The third was, Is it needful?"

There has always been a belief in the religious world that there was somewhere a lost word of power" that when found and spoken would set all things right. The Jews say this lost word is veiled in the name "Yahweh", the Hebrew for our word Jehovah, and that its correct pronunciation is no longer known to man. They claim that it was once known to their priesthood and when used all the powers of God were manifest and mighty works were accomplished by it in brief moments of time. Throughout the Bible many references are made to God's Word, its delight, and its power. Men have missed the meaning of those texts by thinking that it was the written book that was referred to. Actually the Bible did not exist as such when those texts were written. And the Bible clearly teaches that we are to look within our hearts for the word of God and not to externals. Read Deut. 30: 12-l4 -- this is the key to the "lost word of power."

The "Word" as referred to in John 1: 1-12 has traditionally been interpreted to mean Jesus Christ. But this is only partially true. Jesus Christ is the "Word" made flesh because he understood the creative Word of God and made himself in mind and heart and action a complete expression of it. The Creative Word of God, the Divine Logos, is the most powerful force in the Universe. By it the Universe was wrought in the beginning. Man, created in the image and likeness of God, has been endowed with this Creative Word, the key to his power to
create and accomplish. But whereas, Jesus used this creative word in its fullness and the "word became flesh", most of us have fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah: "The burden of Jehovah y- shall ye, mention no more: for every man's own word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of Jehovah of hosts our God."

"As many as receive Him, to them gave he the right to become children of God." Jesus was the Son of God because He received the Divine Logos, the Creative word, and gave complete expression to it. He said, "For I spake not from myself; but the Father that sent me, he hath given me a commandment, what I should say; and what I should speak." Jesus Christ had such a complete understanding of the Word of Power that His word was the Divine Creative word of healing; and when He spoke the paralyzed man jumped to his feet, the blind man had new life in his eyes, and the dead came to life. Even those who opposed him could see that "he spoke not as the scribes and Pharisees, but as one having authority."

"Isaiah said, "Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees." Our woes can be traced back to some unrighteous decree. We have decreed a thousand things that we did not want to come to pass, but that have come to pass, and we suffer from the woeful consequences.

A New York dramatic critic, noted for his brilliantly witty but stinging reviews, was once asked why he condemned so much more often than he praised the writing and acting of plays. He answered: "Vinegar attracts more attention than honey. Besides, it is easier to be clever attacking something than praising it."

Undoubtedly, this is one reason for some of the negative comments that we hear, for it applies to conversation as well as to writing. Say to an average group of people, "John is a fine upright man," and they will casually nod agreement. Say to the same group, "John seems to be a fine person but I suspect that he is a hypocrite," and they will immediately sit up and take avid notice.

STORIES AND ANECDOTES:

Here is a story which shows the healing effect of words, not only upon the one to whom the words are directed, but upon the speaker himself:

In a motion picture of some years ago, entitled "Wise Guy", a clever fellow became an evangelist, and was rascal enough to make capital out of people's religious faith. He had no vestige of religion - did not even believe in God. Yet he could pray beautifully and won converts by thousands. Actually he healed people (by their faith) and made thousands of dollars in a personal fortune.

Then his own mother fell ill. The doctors gave her up, and he was called to her bedside to pray for her, to save her from certain death. But how could he? He could mock God, but not his own mother. He dared not pray. Finally he came face to face with himself. His own preached words came back to him. Suddenly he realized that he did believe, after all. He prayed the prayer of a sincere Christian, and his mother was healed.