

Speaking Truth Pastor Mason Phillips December 7, 2025

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Day 1: The Power of Truth to Set Free

Devotional: Jesus declared that knowing the truth sets us free. But freedom requires more than casual acquaintance—it demands intimate knowledge. Many people remain trapped in cycles of addiction, shame, and deception not because freedom isn't available, but because no one has spoken truth into their lives. Like the lame man healed at the temple gate, people all around us are waiting for someone to stop, see them, and declare the liberating truth of Jesus. Consider those in your life who are bound. They don't need your judgment; they need the truth spoken in love. Who has God placed in your path that desperately needs to hear

about the freedom found in Christ? Your willingness to speak truth could be the key to someone's liberation today.

John 8:31-36 NKJV

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

Reflection: How did Peter and John's boldness, as described in Acts 4:5-20, inspire you to share your faith more openly? What steps can you take to be more courageous in speaking about Jesus?

Day 2: Equipped to Be Witnesses

Devotional: You don't need a theology degree to share Jesus—you just need to know what He's done for you. Peter was an uneducated fisherman, yet his first sermon brought 3,000 people to salvation. Why? Because he received the Holy Spirit and spoke from experience. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes through the word of God being proclaimed. Every Christian is called to be a witness—someone who testifies to what they've seen and heard. You may not know all the answers, but you know your story. You know what Christ has rescued you from. You know the peace, forgiveness, and new identity He's given

you. That's enough. The Holy Spirit provides power; you provide availability. Who needs to hear your testimony this week?

Acts 1:4-8 NKJV

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Romans 10:13-17 NKJV

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,

Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Reflection: Reflect on your own experience of salvation. How did someone sharing the truth of Jesus influence your journey to faith? How can recalling this help you when sharing the gospel with others?

Day 3: Speaking Truth in Love

Devotional: A knife in a surgeon's hand brings healing; in a thug's hand, it brings harm. Similarly, God's word can heal or wound depending on how we wield it. Truth doesn't need to yell, argue, or condemn. It simply needs to be spoken with grace and respect. Many Christians damage their witness not by speaking falsehood, but by speaking truth harshly. Remember: it's the goodness of God that leads people to repentance, not condemnation. People already know they're broken; they need to know there's a God who loves them anyway. When you share truth, let love be your motivation—not being right, not winning arguments, but genuinely desiring freedom for others. Season your words with grace. Speak gently but confidently. Let God's truth do the heavy lifting while your demeanor reflects His heart.

Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine; by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ—

From whom the whole body, joined and knit tighter by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

1 Peter 3:13-16 NK,IV

And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers. Those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

Reflection: The sermon emphasizes the importance of knowing and speaking the truth of God's Word. In what areas do you feel most confident speaking about your faith? In what areas do you feel less confident, and how can you work to improve your understanding?

Day 4: The Boldness That Comes From Seeing God Move

Devotional: Peter, who once denied Jesus three times to save his own skin, now boldly proclaimed Christ before the very leaders who crucified Him. What changed? He encountered the risen Lord and received the Holy Spirit. Boldness doesn't come from personality or courage alone—it comes from knowing God is with you and seeing Him move. The early church prayed not for safety but for boldness to speak God's word while He confirmed it with signs and wonders. Your confidence grows as you step out in faith and witness God's faithfulness. Start where you are. Pray for the sick. Share your testimony. Speak truth when opportunities arise. Each time God shows up, your boldness increases. Don't wait until you feel ready—obedience precedes confidence. Step out, and watch God meet you there.

Acts 4:5-31 NKJV

And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

"This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone. Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."

So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and head." So when they had further threaten them, they let them go,

finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

'Why did the nations rage. And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.'

"For truth against Your holy Servant Jesus, who You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your servants that with all boldness they may speak You word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Reflection: The message outlined the necessity of speaking the truth rightly and boldly. Why is it important to balance love and boldness when sharing the Gospel? Can you think of a situation where you could apply this principle in your life?

Day 5: No Other Name

Devotional: In our culture of tolerance, exclusivity sounds harsh. But truth, by nature, is exclusive. Jesus didn't say He was "a" way to God—He said He is "the" way. Peter declared there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. This isn't arrogance; it's reality. A surgeon doesn't apologize for insisting on the correct procedure to save a life. Why should we apologize for declaring the only means of salvation? The world offers countless paths, philosophies, and religions, but only Jesus conquered death. Only Jesus paid for sin. Only Jesus offers genuine reconciliation with God. Christmas reminds us that God gave His very best—His Son—because there was no other way. Don't be ashamed of this exclusive truth. Proclaim it boldly, live it authentically, and trust that those who truly seek will find Jesus is exactly who He claims to be.

Acts 4:8-12 NK,JV

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

"This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone. Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

John 14:6 NKJV

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Reflection: The sermon mentions that being a witness for Jesus is a calling for every believer. How do you see yourself fulfilling this calling

in your daily life? What specific actions can you take to be a more effective witness in your community or workplace?