

# WORDS TO SPEAK:

## The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Numbers 11:17,25-27 & 24:2  
 Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades  
 August 21, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

**It was his first day on the job.** He was a new clerk in the produce department of a super market. A lady came up to him and said she wanted to buy half of a head of lettuce. He tried to dissuade her from that goal, but she persisted. Finally he said, ***"I'll have to go back and talk to the manager."***

He went to the rear of the store to talk to the manager, not noticing that the woman was walking right behind him. When he got into the back of the store, he said to the manager, ***"There's some stupid old bag out there who wants to buy half a head of lettuce. What should I tell her?"***

Seeing the horrified look on the face of the manager, he turned about and, seeing the woman, added, ***"And this nice lady wants to buy the other half of the head of lettuce. Will it be all right?"***

Considerably relieved, the manager said, ***"That would be fine."***

Later in the day, he congratulated the boy on his quick thinking. He asked, ***"Where are you from, son?"***

The boy said, ***"I'm from Toronto, Canada, the home of beautiful hockey players and ugly women."***

The manager looked at him (somewhat agitated) and said, ***"My wife is from Toronto."***

The boy said, ***"Oh really, what team did she play for?"***

Feel pain, resonates, put foot in mouth, speak when shouldn't ... wish we could get it back.

Nothing better than when we have something to say but don't say it, the restrainer closes our lips.

Ill. Zechariah ... Luke 1 Angel Gabriel, unable to speak until the baby, JB was born.

Spirit-controlled speech ... The Spirit restrains us ... keeps us from saying it.

Nothing better than when we don't know what to say or how to say it, and the Holy Spirit gives the words.

The Spirit is perfectly capable of restraining our speech or giving us the **words to speak**.

Treasure hunt. Find two very interesting occurrences where the Holy Spirit shows up. In both occasions we find those who utter words inspired by the Holy Spirit ... words from God.

Please open your Bibles to Numbers. CHAPTERS 11 AND 24. Page 103.
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Numbers Pentateuch/Torah 1<sup>st</sup> 5 books. Recounts Creation Wilderness, death of Moses in Deut. 34.

Genesis 1 ... Spirit was there giving life. Genesis 6 ... Spirit was there contending with man. Exodus 31,35

... Spirit was there gifting skilled workers so they could build a house for God; filled when used gifts.

Numbers 11, 24 find the Spirit giving both willing and unwilling servants the **works to speak**.

Numbers 11 ... find Moses at wits end. Nearing burn out. Negative speech, constant complaining.

Not something new ... they had been whining, complaining, blaming him, wanting to kill him (Num 14)

The situation was escalating, nearing the breaking point, something had to happen. God steps in.

**READ vv. 16-17** the Spirit that was on Moses, now rested on them. This is the Holy Spirit.

Then God tells Moses what to say ... gives him words, promises, assurances; in response. Meat, nostrils. Moses express some doubt ... and God reassures him.

**READ vv. 24-25** the Spirit that was on Moses, now rested on them, they prophesied ... **words to speak.** prophesy = define it = spiritual utterance. Foreteller, forthteller.

**When we don't know what to say ... the Spirit gives us words to speak.**

Ill. Personal – on a daily basis. Especially Sunday. What do you want me to say? Give me words. Wisdom that is not mine. Encouragement that is not mine. Comfort that is not natural. Words to speak. Like me, you know how easy it is to fall into the trap of complaining instead of asking God for WORDS.

**James 3:9–12 (NIV84)** <sup>9</sup> *With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.* <sup>10</sup> *Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.* <sup>11</sup> *Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?* <sup>12</sup> *My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.*

“But there is so much to complain about” ... quench Spirit when we whine, complain, gripe, ingratitude. We experience filling when we utter the words the Spirit pours out from us. Love joy peace patience.

**READ v. 25** ... did it once and never did it again. This was an ecstatic experience. **DEFINING MOMENT.** Totally unexplainable yet completely undeniable. OT passage reminds me of Acts 2.

**The words the Spirit gives us come from God. The words given to us by the Spirit cannot be manufactured. And we can't conger them up, or force them.**

Ill. One friend who had an experience; everything else defined by it. Wants it again, longing looking for that same filling. Delirious “I could sing of your love forever.” for an hour. Powerful experience. Looking for the very same thing they went back to their churches, everyone singing one song for hour. The minute we try and make it happen, we shut it down. The harder we try, the more unlikely. OT see the Spirit ON THEM, in the NT we learn that the Spirit is IN THEM (indwelling) The gifts in the OT come and go. But the gifts we get are ours to keep. Not all the gifts, not all the time. We have the ability (not just to have ecstatic experiences, disappointed), but to speak words of comfort, encouragement, truth, words that heal. Experience the powerful filling of receiving **words to speak.**

**Chapter 24** ... Balaam. ill. Bernie Ware jumped out of his seat months ago when I ended my sermon by saying the God even spoke through Balaam's ass (poor word choice) ... donkey. Summoned to curse Israel, Balaam blesses Israel. The words he speaks are not his own. Come from God. **Balak summons sorcerer to put a curse on Israel. God says no. Balaam resists, God permits.**

**READ vv. 1-3** **The Spirit gives words to speak to whomever He pleases.** Ill. Balaam.

God can speak through anybody, even reluctant, rebellious. ill. Jonah.

Spirit comes on whomever the Spirit pleases. Even if not trained, ordained, even children.

Ill. Hallie. We have to trust God.

SO WHAT? I don't have anything to say. I'm not gifted with words. Messengers empowered by HS.

When we don't know how to pray ... Spirit prays with groans too deep for words.

When we don't know what to say ... Spirit communicates to us. Spirit communicates through us.

The Holy Spirit gives us the words to say. When we are in trouble, in crisis ...

**Matthew 10:19–20 (NIV84)** <sup>19</sup> *But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say,* <sup>20</sup> *for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

Conclusion:

Holy Spirit ... speaks God's words through us. The Spirit gives us words to speak.

Holy Spirit ... Gives us words to speak that are not our own, straight from the heart of God.  
Holy Spirit ... can speak through anyone. Even you and me.