STONE CHURCH

POD STUDY GUIDE

SPEAK 2.0

STONE CHURCH

WEEK ONE
THE WORD OF HIS POWER

With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips.
Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

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Introduction

The Word Behind Everything

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

The SPEAK! series begins with an extraordinary biblical truth: **everything we see exists because God spoke**. From Genesis to the revelation of Jesus Christ as the eternal Word, Scripture presents God's Word as the expression of His creative power, authority, and purpose.

Genesis 1 repeatedly declares, "**Then God said.**" Light appeared, creation took shape, and the world was ordered according to God's command. Hebrews 11:3 explains that "**the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible**."

God's Word is not simply information about reality. It is the authoritative expression of the One who created reality.

John takes this revelation further, declaring, "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**"

The Greek word Logos identifies the eternal Word through whom all things came into being. John 1:14 reveals that "**the Word became flesh**." The eternal Word is Jesus Christ.

This distinction is essential. Scripture does not teach that every word we speak possesses creative power simply because we pronounce it. Rather, **God's Word carries divine authority because it originates in God Himself.**

When believers pray, proclaim, and stand upon His Word, they place their faith in the authority and faithfulness of the One who spoke it.

The power is not in our ability to produce a declaration. The power belongs to the God whose Word we are declaring.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Hebrews 11:3 teaches that the universe was formed by God's Word. How should this fact change the way we approach Scripture, prayer, and life's challenges?

2. John identifies Jesus as the eternal Word through whom everything was created. Why is it important to recognize that God's Word and Jesus Christ cannot be separated?

1

God's Word Carries the Authority of the One Who Spoke It

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Isaiah 55:10-11

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Hebrews explains that God has spoken throughout history, ultimately revealing Himself through His Son. The writer describes Jesus as **"upholding all things by the word of His power."**

The word translated upholding carries the idea of sustaining or carrying something along. God did not merely create the universe and step away from it. **The creation He spoke into existence continues to depend upon His sustaining power.**

Colossians 1:17 reinforces this truth: "**He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.**" Everything exists through Christ, for Christ, and under His sovereign authority.

Isaiah 55:10–11 compares God's Word to rain that waters the earth and accomplishes its purpose. God declares, **"So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire."**

Notice the emphasis: God's Word accomplishes **what God desires.**

Biblical faith is therefore different from believing that speaking certain words automatically produces our desired outcome. God's Word is not a spiritual formula placing divine power under human control. It is the authoritative expression of His will.

When we declare God's promises, we bring our hearts, prayers, and expectations into agreement with what He has revealed. Second Corinthians 1:20 teaches that God's promises find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. We must therefore understand those promises in their biblical context rather than treating isolated verses as guarantees of whatever outcome we desire.

Faith does not give God's Word its authority. Faith responds to the authority God's Word already possesses.

GROUP DISCUSSION

How does Isaiah 55 strengthen our trust in Scripture and help us understand the difference between trusting God's promises and simply declaring what we want to happen?

2. Hebrews 1:3 describes Jesus as sustaining all things by His powerful Word. How should this affect our response when circumstances seem overwhelming or beyond our control?

LIFE APPLICATION

Choose a circumstance producing fear, discouragement, or uncertainty. Search Scripture for what God reveals about His character, promises, and will. Write down a passage that speaks into your situation. Read it aloud, meditate upon it, and turn it into prayer.

For example, Philippians 4:6–7 teaches us to bring our anxieties to God with thanksgiving and promises His peace will guard our hearts and minds in Christ. **We declare Scripture because God's truth is greater than the fear attempting to govern our reality.**

2
God's Word Transforms What Sin Has Broken

1 Peter 1:23–25

for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but
imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.
For "All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers, And the flower falls off,
But the word of the Lord endures forever."
And this is the word which was preached to you.

Romans 10:8–17

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in
your heart"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that
if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your
heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for
with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and
with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the
Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."
For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same
Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for
"Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."
How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how
will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless
they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of
those who bring good news of good things!"
However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says,
"Lord, who has believed our report?" So faith comes from hearing,
and hearing by the word of Christ.

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One of the greatest demonstrations of God's Word at work is found not merely in physical creation but in **the new creation.**

Peter tells believers they have been "**born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God**." The same God who spoke life into the original creation brings spiritual life through the proclamation of the gospel.

Romans 10 connects salvation with believing in the heart and confessing Jesus as Lord. Paul explains that "**faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.**"

Notice the progression. The gospel is proclaimed, a person hears the message, the Holy Spirit works through that message, and the believer responds in faith.

Our confession does not manufacture salvation through the force of our speech. It expresses genuine faith in the Savior revealed through the gospel. This pattern continues throughout Christian life. God's Word reveals truth, faith receives that truth, and our speech and actions increasingly agree with what God has revealed.

Romans 12:2 describes this as being "**transformed by the renewing of your mind.**" The Holy Spirit uses Scripture to confront false beliefs, expose sinful patterns, and transform our thinking. Consider someone who has spent years believing, I am worthless. I can never change. God could never forgive me. Those beliefs influence decisions, relationships, and behavior.

Then the gospel announces forgiveness, reconciliation, adoption, and new life through Jesus Christ.

The Word confronts the lie with truth.

As faith receives that truth, transformation begins. God's Word does not merely describe the life He wants us to live. **Through the Spirit, it becomes the means by which He forms that life within us.**

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. First Peter describes God's Word as imperishable seed through which we are born again. What is the difference between simply learning biblical information and experiencing genuine spiritual transformation?

2. What is one belief about yourself, your circumstances, or your future that has been shaped more by fear or past experience than by God's Word? What biblical truth challenges it?

LIFE APPLICATION

Identify one recurring thought or belief influencing your decisions or spiritual confidence. Find a passage that directly addresses it. Read the surrounding Scripture to understand its meaning, then begin speaking that truth in prayer. For example, if condemnation governs your thoughts, meditate upon Romans 8:1: **“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**

Consider why that promise is true, what Christ accomplished to make it true, and how your life should change because of it. **The goal is not simply to speak differently, but to believe differently because God's Word has renewed our thinking.**

3

Speak God's Word With Faith and Submission to His Will

Mark 11:22–24

And Jesus *answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

In Mark 11, Jesus makes an extraordinary statement about faith, prayer, and speaking to a mountain. He tells His disciples that whoever speaks without doubting, but believes, will see what he says accomplished.

Yet notice how Jesus introduces this teaching: "**Have faith in God**." The emphasis is not ultimately on the mountain or the believer's words. It is on the God in whom the believer places confidence.

A mountain can serve as a picture of an enormous difficulty or seemingly impossible obstacle. Jesus teaches that faith should not be limited by the apparent size of an obstacle when we are praying to the God for whom nothing is impossible.

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But Jesus also connects prayer with relationship.

In John 15:7, He says, **“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”**

Notice the connection between **abiding, God's Word, and asking**. Prayer flows from a life connected to Christ and increasingly shaped by His Word.
First John 5:14 reinforces this: **“If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”**

Believers have been welcomed into an extraordinary relationship with God. Romans 8:15–17 describes us as adopted children who can cry, “Abba! Father!” We approach God not as strangers but as children who belong to Him.

Jesus also teaches us to pray in His name. This means more than attaching a phrase to a prayer. We approach the Father through Christ, seeking what agrees with His character, purposes, and authority.

We can therefore pray boldly for healing, deliverance, provision, restoration, and breakthrough. We can speak God's promises, resist the enemy's lies, and proclaim Scripture in the face of adversity.

Yet **the authority belongs to Jesus, the power belongs to God, and the outcome remains in His sovereign hands.** Faith is not weakened by submission to God's will. **Faith is strengthened because it trusts the God whose will is good.**

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Jesus begins His teaching about speaking to mountains with "Have faith in God." How does keeping our attention on God rather than the strength of our declarations change the way we pray?

2. John 15:7 connects answered prayer with abiding in Christ and allowing His words to abide in us. How might a deeper relationship with Jesus change what we pray for and how we pray?

LIFE APPLICATION

Identify one recurring thought or belief influencing your decisions or spiritual confidence. Find a passage that directly addresses it. Read the surrounding Scripture to understand its meaning, then begin speaking that truth in prayer. For example, if condemnation governs your thoughts, meditate upon Romans 8:1: **“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**

Consider why that promise is true, what Christ accomplished to make it true, and how your life should change because of it. **The goal is not simply to speak differently, but to believe differently because God's Word has renewed our thinking.**

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BRINGING IT HOME

The opening message of SPEAK! 2.0 introduces a powerful truth: God's Word is not ordinary speech.
By His Word, creation came into existence. Through Christ, the eternal Word, all things were made and continue to be sustained. Through the gospel, God's Word brings salvation. Through Scripture, the Holy Spirit renews our minds and transforms our lives.

And through prayer, believers bring their needs before God with confidence in His promises, character, and authority.

But we must remember one essential distinction: **We do not possess authority over God's Word. We live under the authority of God's Word.** When we speak what God has spoken, we are not trying to make God agree with us. We are learning to agree with Him.

Personal Reflection

- How much of my thinking is shaped by God's Word?
- Do I approach Scripture as information or as truth meant to transform me?
- Am I speaking more about my problems than I am praying God's truth into those problems?
- Do I trust the God behind the promise even when the answer takes longer than expected?

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This week, begin practicing something simple: turn God's Word into prayer. When fear comes, bring God's truth to it. When temptation comes, answer it with Scripture. When uncertainty rises, rehearse God's faithfulness. When you need healing, wisdom, provision, or direction, pray boldly according to His Word.

And when you cannot understand what God is doing, continue trusting the character of the One who spoke. **Our greatest confidence is not that our words are powerful. It is that God's Word is powerful, and the God who spoke it is faithful.**

Prayer

Father, thank You for the authority and power of Your Word. You spoke creation into existence, and through Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, all things were made and continue to be sustained. Thank You that Your Word brings salvation and that through the Holy Spirit You renew our minds and transform our lives.

Teach us to honor Your Word, believe what You have spoken, and bring our lives into agreement with Your truth. Forgive us for allowing fear and circumstances to become more influential than Your promises. Give us courage to pray boldly, faith to stand upon Your Word, and wisdom to understand Scripture faithfully.

As we face obstacles, sickness, temptation, and uncertainty, remind us that nothing is beyond Your power. May we speak Your Word with confidence, remain submitted to Your will, and trust Your character in every circumstance.

Let Your Word take root within us, shape our thinking, govern our speech, and produce lasting fruit through our lives. In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, Amen.