



PASTOR'S

Perspective

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“

For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than to die in the wilderness.

—Exodus 14:12

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Ever listen to yourself talking or speaking? I mean really listening to what you are saying. Ever listen to the words you use? No, I am not talking about the words that used to get your mouth washed out with soap. I am talking about all of your words. I am talking about the words that define who you are and what you stand for and where you are going. You know when we really think about it, all we have is our words. Our words define us. Our words give insight to others as to what they can expect from us or what they can look for from us. Words, in

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simple expression, shape us. They even tell our brain how to think and what to believe. Words are powerful in making determinations about ourselves and in what others determine about us. If we speak negatively we probably will be surrounded by the negative. If good and positive words come from our mouths it's an indication that good and the positive is what we expect.

The story from our Exodus text is a story of words. The recently escaping Hebrew slaves coming out of Egypt were on the brink of something great and grand. New found freedoms and liberties were about to become theirs for their pleasure and enjoyment yet their words spoke something else. They declared to Moses, who was their leader that they thought they would have been better off having stayed in Egypt under continued conditions of bondage. Their words accused Moses of bringing them out to the wilderness to die. Their words even spoke defeat and demise instead of victory and hope. They, in their own words, were about to be defeated before the battle had ever begun. But then there was Moses and his words. They were the exact opposite of the Hebrews. "Do not be afraid, stand firm and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today." Not only this, Moses' words spoke promise and power. "For the Egyptians whom you see today

you shall never see again! The Lord will fight for you and you have only to keep still." Your problems are ending right now with the immediate and swift delivering power of the Lord is what Moses said. The difference between what Moses' words said and what the Hebrews' words spoke were light years apart. Moses spoke of the positive and the possible. The Hebrews spoke of the negative and the defeated.

Our words can make all the difference in the world. We are often speaking the negative and thus we position ourselves for defeat. A word such as "can't" can turn a situation with possibility into a quagmire of defeat before it can even get off of the ground. Our words dictate our actions and if we think and speak negatively, that is exactly what we will get. It's really a no brainer!

What words did you speak in 2008 that have restricted and restrained you? What words will you speak in 2009 that will enhance and advance your shape and your position? How about one last word, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me!" Notice that this word is centered in what we "can" do. In this New Year try forgetting the negative words and embrace the positive words and see where your journey takes you? I think you will enjoy it.