



Weekly Devotion

Communicating to Connect

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."
Romans 12:18

God must value the spoken word so much, he used it to speak into existence creation and all of life. As his creation we also value spoken words for we use them in daily conversation, pledges, promises and other binding agreements that we enter into such as marriage. In light of the importance of words, imagine the impact they have on others when we speak them. Our witness to the world is determined by the words we speak.

So, if the power of the tongue can hold life or death, why don't we hear more about how to communicate effectively and connect with others in a positive fashion? One reason could be due to an arrogant position of "if I speak, others should listen..." or "they owe it to me to listen". A fruitless assumption when we consider all the ingredients in communication that it takes to make a solid connection with our listeners.

When one considers all the ingredients such as tone, volume, enunciation, body language, facial expression, rhythm, pace, the

words and the emotions behind them, its easy to conclude that communicating a message and having it received as you intended isn't a simple as it seems. But when you don't communicate effectively then your message is not received as intended, or lands on deaf ears and taints any future attempts with the last experience.

Remember the game of post office we used to play as a child. All sit in a circle, one person starts off whispering to the person on his right side, and that person repeats it to the person on his right. This continues until it finally arrives back to the messages originator. Everyone always got a laugh out of the result as it was never the same as the original message.

The apostle Paul knew how to connect with his words. There are many instances in the New Testament that show forethought and planning to minimize distractions and connect before he spoke his first word. When in Athens he chose roman idols as a way to connect and get his message delivered the way he intended (Acts 7:22). He chose the content based on his audience and probably altered his words and

style to ensure that he connected and got his message across. Paul was about putting others before self, trust, and connecting as a requirement for each message. It was the best approach for people to feel valued, respected and open to something new.

Wisdom is needed in discerning the best way to communicate and the Holy Spirit is always at your side for collaboration. The

time you spend before any reply, conversation, or gathering will determine how well your intended message is received and understood.

"A little thought into the words we use and how we deliver them will determine if they reach the ears, mind, heart, and spirit or just the air."

By: Dennis Dean
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

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November 20 & 21

Saturday, Nov. 20
6 p.m. Gospel Concert
REBORN of Jonesboro, AR
7 p.m. Evangelist Mickey Hudnall

Sunday, Nov. 21
10 a.m. **REBORN**
11 a.m. Evangelist Mickey Hudnall

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<p>Anointed Hands Ministry 907 Willow St. Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 623-6404</p>	<p>First Baptist Jonesville 103 Pond St. Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 339-9062</p>	<p>Harrisonburg United Methodist Church Located at foot of bridge (318) 339-8356</p>	<p>Mt Hermon Baptist Church 1319 Hwy 28, Jonesville, LA 71343-9679 (318) 339-8964</p>	<p>Patton Baptist Church 115 Patton Church Rd, Jonesville, LA 71343 (318) 452-6605</p>	<p>Sunny Side Church 6569 Hwy 15 Clayton, LA 71326 318-625-2053</p>
<p>Berean Reformed Baptist 210 Front St., Jonesville, LA 71343 318-339-8764</p>	<p>First Baptist Church 303 Chisum, Sicily Island, LA 71368 (318) 389-5733</p>	<p>Jonesville Church of God 152 Hwy3037, Jonesville, LA (318) 339-7807</p>	<p>Mt. Sinai Baptist Church 321 Willow Lake Road P.O. Box 725 Jonesville, LA 71343</p>	<p>Pine Hill Baptist Church 3479 Hwy 913, Sicily Island, LA 71368</p>	<p>The Pentecostals of J'ville 102 Lilly Street, Jonesville, LA 318-452-3287</p>
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