



God's Word is living and it is powerful.

Heb. 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

NKJV

God's Word exposes secrets that are hidden in our heart; secret thoughts and secret motives that cause us to behave in ways that are sinful. It reveals to us things in our soul that are sinful and need to change.



I am on the board of directors at Kimray. Recently I attended a luncheon at Kimray Inc. for our distributors. I sat down at a table with Mr. Hill and a few of the distributors.

I had spoken to these distributors in the fall of 2014. One of the fellows at the table asked me if I would be speaking this year to the distributors. I told him no. He then proceeded to tell me that the message I shared with the distributors in the fall of 2014 was life changing for him.

His wife was there beside him and she confirmed that the message had made a great impact on him and she also proceeded to tell me how much it was needed.

The Word of God is living and it is powerful!

What if there was a simple way for each one of us to leave here this morning and go share the living and powerful Word of God with others?

When the fellow at the distributors meeting told me that the message I shared was life changing for him, I said to him, I know why it made such an impact on you. I said it was the story I told. He said, yes and then he told me the story.

The Word of God is living and it is powerful and God has provided a simple way for each one of us to share His Word with others.

Stories!

On August 6, there was a national leadership summit for business leaders that was attended by the executive team at Kimray. One of the speakers was Ed Catmull. Ed Catmull is a computer scientist and current president of Pixar Animation Studios and Walt Disney Animation Studios (including the latter's Disney Toon Studios division). As a computer scientist, Catmull has contributed to many important developments in computer graphics.

His theme was...

How Story Telling is the Most Effective Way to Change the World!

I do not know if Ed knows God. But God knew that stories were the most effective way to change the world before Ed knew it.

God knew that stories were the most effective way to share His Word with us.

The bible begins with the story of creation Genesis 1. The bible ends with the story of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 22. In between Genesis 1 and Revelation 22 every truth God wants us to know about Him and His ways is in the context of a story. The gospel is a story.

Jesus was a story teller. He constantly illustrated the truth He was teaching with stories. His stories are called parables. Every parable is a story within the story He and His disciples were living at the time.

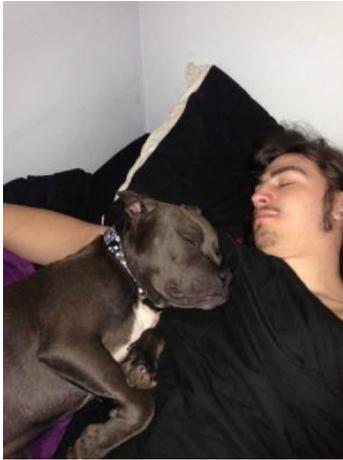
By sharing the Word of God through His stories, we can change the world.

So what is keeping us from sharing the Word of God through His stories?

- **Unbelief(Romans 10:17)**

We do not believe the Word of God is living and powerful.

- **Deception(1 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 6:7)**



Satan has convinced the church that you have to be an expert to effectively share the Word of God with others.

Satan has convinced the church that you have to know Greek and Hebrew to effectively share the Word of God with others.

Satan has convinced the church that you have to be able to answer every question to effectively share the Word of God with others.

Satan has convinced the church that the power to change others is found in the speaker rather than in the Word of God.

Church why are you following the deception of Satan?

God in His infinite wisdom created a simple way for every believer to fulfill their calling to make disciples. God in His infinite wisdom created a way for the illiterate to reach the educated and for the most educated to reach the illiterate. God in His infinite wisdom created a way for every believer to see reproduced in others the truth and life of Jesus Christ. God in His infinite wisdom created a strategy for discipleship that is reproducible for everyone.

My heart is deeply grieved that I did not understand this before I became a Pastor. I personally fell into a system of training that has created this idea that you have to be an expert in the scriptures to make disciples. It is just not true. I have rejected that satanic plot. Have you?

Besides unbelief and deception what else is keeping us from sharing the Word of God with others through His stories?

- **Love the world and the things of the world(I John 2:15)**

The story that the man remembered was the story of a young man and his dog.

Just as the young man chose his dog over his wife and child, you have things in the world that are more important to you than sharing the Word of God with others through His stories.

Being a disciple of Jesus means that what is most important to Him is most important to you!

Are you His disciple?

What are you going to do with this message from God?

- **Get connected to the church of Jesus Christ by joining a small group that uses the stories in the bible as their main curriculum**
Become a part of a team.
- **Learn to tell the bible stories that are told in the group**
Don't be content with just hearing the story. Learn to tell the story yourself. Practice it until you can tell it naturally like you do other stories. Learn to ask the questions we use in our groups.
- **Go tell the stories to people you know**
It is the most non-threatening way I know to turn a conversation to spiritual things. Everyone loves a good story. The Holy Spirit can use any story in the bible to speak to people.
- **Start a group and invite people to your group to share life and hear the stories**
It only takes you and one other person to form a group that meets every week. Anyone can get one other person to start a group with them. From there you start inviting other people.
- **Trust God to do His part as you do your part**

If we will believe God and do our part, God will do His part through His Word. We will change the world!