

Day 8

The Self-Deprecating Tongue

Moses said to the LORD, “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

EXODUS 4:10

You engage in self-deprecation when you think or speak of yourself as being of little or no worth and thereby minimize the value of what you “bring to the table” or have to offer. Notice how Satan seeks to take us from one extreme to the other. He tries to make us either boastful or bashful. He tries to make us think that we are “da bomb” (slang for “really hot stuff”) or “done bombed” (totally blew it!). Don’t be ignorant of his tricks.

Self-deprecation is often disguised as humility; but in reality, it is a rejection of the Word of God,

which assures us we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (PHILIPPIANS 4:13). Watch those negative labels you put on yourself. What others call you is not important; it is only what you call yourself.

Consider the account of Jesus and the man who had been possessed by demons for a very long time. “Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him” (LUKE 8:30 KJV). A “legion” was a major unit of the Roman army consisting of up to 6000 troops; “Legion” was not this man’s given name. Being possessed by a legion of demons was a temporary condition he had come to accept as permanent reality. He had dealt with the problem for so long that he labeled or defined himself by his experience.

Have you had an experience that you have allowed to define you? Perhaps you have labeled yourself a “fatso” because you have battled your weight for a long time with no apparent victory in sight. Alternatively, maybe you have defined yourself as a “victim” because you were truly victimized more than once. You may even consider yourself a “failure” because you are divorced. It is time to abandon the negative labels and redefine yourself!

Self-deprecation displeases God. When Moses complained that he was inadequate to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage because of his speech impediment, God became upset.

The LORD said to him, “Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say” (EXODUS 4:11-12).

What an awesome promise from an Omnipotent Being who cannot lie. We must reject the spirit of inadequacy. Without God, we can do nothing anyway; with Him we can do all things. Because of the reality of His Word, we can walk in confidence—not in ourselves—but in the grace of God that empowers us.

— TODAY'S AFFIRMATION: —

God is able to make *all* grace abound toward me; so that I *always* having *all* sufficiency in *all* things, may abound to *every* good work.