

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXIII

December 15, 2013

No. 50

A Fountain of Life

(Jerry Fite)

When we think of a life-giving fountain we automatically set our attention on God. He has created all fountains of water along with the heavens, earth and sea (*Revelation 14:7*). And as Jeremiah reminded Israel, when they rejected God they had “forsaken the fountain of living waters” (*Jeremiah 2:13*). God indeed is the source of life and is able to abundant life as a continually flowing fountain.

Giving God His place as the source for all good things, have you ever thought of yourself as a fountain of life? Solomon declares, “The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life; but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked” (*Proverbs 10:11*). The wicked, determined to cause destruction, death and ruin, often conceal their intentions with lying words or silence. The righteous, determined to live according to God’s standard, offer life through their words.

The words of the righteous offer life, not the words of the

self-righteous. “*Jehovah is righteous; He loveth righteousness: The upright shall behold His face*” (*Psalms 11:7*). To be upright before God today, we must submit to God’s standard of righteousness through the revealed gospel of Christ (*Romans 1:16-17; 10:3*). Truth, not lies will flow from the mouth of the righteous in tune with the God who cannot lie.

At the root of the righteous speaker is a heart filled with reverential fear for God. Such is a prerequisite for being a fountain of life. “*The fear of Jehovah is a fountain of life, that one may depart from the snares of death*” (*Proverbs 14:27*).

A healthy reverence for God also provides a foundation for true wisdom. “*The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding*” (*Proverbs 9:10*). And what comes from the one with such wisdom: a fountain of life? “*The law of the wise is fountain of life, that one may depart from the snares of death*” (*Proverbs 13:14*).

When we, anchored with Godly fear and filled with God’s wisdom, teach others the Gospel, we are a fountain of life. We are offering, through our words of teaching, the true and living way in Christ (*John 14:6*), and the way of escape from the snares of the devil (*2 Timothy 2:24-26*). Life is provided through feeding. “*The lips of the righteous feed many...*” (*Proverbs 10:21*). What a blessing we are to the hearer: “*understanding is a well-spring of life unto him that hath it...*” (*Proverbs 16:22*).

Besides our words of gospel instruction pointing others to Christ, we are a verbal fountain of life in our healing words. “*There is that speaketh rashly like the piercings of a sword; but the tongue of the wise is health*” (*Proverbs 12:18*). Rash words often rise from anger, jealousy, and self-pity. They have more to do with the selfish speaker, than help to the hearer. The wise, know the power of their words, speak words of grace and consequent healing. Are you a fountain of life by the words you speak?