

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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A NEW ME IN '23

John Edwards

God has made it possible for me to be new in Christ. *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”* (2 Cor. 5:17). What a tremendous blessing — all things become new! As I *“put on the new man”* (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10), here is what a new me looks like:

SPEAK TRUTH.

“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another” (Eph. 4:25). *“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds”* (Col. 3:9). God hates *“a lying tongue”* and *“A false witness that speaketh lies”* (Prov. 6:17, 19). Revelation 21:8 reveals, *“...all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”* One may have told lies in the past, but putting away lying, the new me does not lie, but always speaks the truth, no matter what.

WORKING AND GIVING.

“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth” (Eph. 4:28). Thieves,

as demonstrated in Luke 10:30-35, will strip you of your raiment, wound you, and depart, leaving you half dead, if not worse! This may have been one’s philosophy in life: What is yours is mine and I will take it if I want it. The new me does not steal, but rather works with his hands that which is good and operates by a new philosophy: What is mine is yours and you can have it if you need it. What a difference! The Bible can change the worst of people into the best of people!

GOOD MOUTH. *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers”* (Eph. 4:29). One may have had a bad mouth in the past, using foul, abusive, unwholesome, evil, unfit words and language. No such speech or talk comes out of the mouth of a new me. The new me has a good mouth. Now everything that is said is good and helpful. Words from a new me are an encouragement to those who hear them.

KIND, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING. *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath*

forgiven you” (Eph. 4:31-32). One may have been very moody, hypersensitive, and temperamental in years gone-by. Now, in Christ, a new me is different. All bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour and evil speaking have been put away, with all malice. Who was once unpleasant to be around is now kind, tenderhearted (compassionate) and forgiving — the one everyone wants to have as their companion and friend.

We know of those who have made great improvements physically. Perhaps one was a “couch potato” who allowed himself to become very fat and out of shape to the point he couldn’t walk to the mailbox without being winded. He decided to change that, and because of the lifestyle changes that were made, he lost so much weight and is now in such good shape that one might say, “Have you seen _____ lately? You wouldn’t recognize him!” This can happen spiritually as well, if one is determined. It may be said of one who lied, stole, had a bad mouth, and was defined by bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking and malice, “Have you been around _____ lately? He’s not the same person!” Most people don’t change. Some people do. Will you? How about **A NEW ME IN '23**? If not now, when?

BE A JOSHUA

John Edwards

Joshua exhibited many outstanding qualities in his life. Each of us is encouraged to **BE A JOSHUA**.

SERVE OTHERS. Joshua is introduced to us as “*Moses’ minister*” (Ex. 24:13; Josh. 1:1). A minister is one who serves. We need the heart of a servant. “...*by love serve one another*” (Gal. 5:13).

ENCOURAGE THOSE AROUND YOU. Moses said, “...*your fathers...discouraged the heart of the children of Israel...*” (Num. 32:8-9). How did this happen? Deuteronomy 1:28, “*Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.*” They were discouraged by what was said. The fact that Caleb and Joshua would see the land shows that Joshua was not a party to discouragement. Joshua was an encourager! He said, “*Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of*

good courage...” (Josh. 10:25). He encouraged others with the very words God used to encourage him (Josh. 1:9). We need to be careful to encourage and not discourage the heart of our brethren by what we say and do!

WHOLLY FOLLOW THE LORD. It was said, “...*none... from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land...*” Why? The Lord said, “...*because they have not wholly followed me*” (Num. 32:11). The only exception to this: “*Save Caleb...and Joshua...for they have wholly followed the Lord*” (Num. 32:12). I don’t know how many men were twenty years old and upward, but only two followed the Lord — wholly! Are we wholly following the Lord? He knows!

BE HONORABLE. Joshua was a venerable man. All Israel “...*feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life*” (Josh. 4:14). When they “*feared*” Joshua, it’s not that they were afraid of him, but they honored him. We need to conduct ourselves so as to command respect of others, like Joshua.

READ THE WORD OF GOD. Joshua “...*read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law*” (Josh. 8:34). Have you read all that God has said?

LEAVE NOTHING UNDONE. Do you know how much Joshua left undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses? “...*nothing...*” (Josh. 11:15). The key to this is: “...*so did Joshua...*” Does leave nothing undone!

DARE TO STAND. Joshua took a stand when he said, “...*choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*” (Josh. 24:15). We are taught “*to stand*” (Eph. 6:11, 13). It takes courage to stand for the Lord and against the devil!

BE A GOOD INFLUENCE. Joshua was a man of considerable influence for good. Joshua 24:31, “*And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua....*” May our good influence help others serve the Lord.

BE A JOSHUA, will you?

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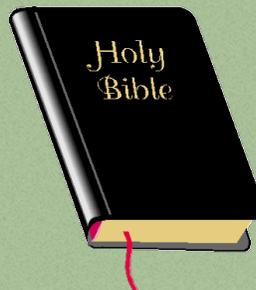
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We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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