

4th Quarter 2015

CONCEPTS OF FAITH

CALLING THINGS THAT ARE NOT AS THOUGH THEY WERE

by Charles Capps



PROTECTING YOUR HEART

by Annette Capps



CALLING THINGS THAT ARE NOT *as Though They Were*

There is no other subject that is more important to the Body of Christ today than the *Bible* principle of *calling things that are not*. Yet it is a subject that is very controversial in some religious circles and grossly misunderstood by many.

I admonish you to approach this subject with a desire to know and understand God's methods. They may seem strange to you because of your religious background. But don't make a decision for or against the subject until you know what God said and did concerning this matter.

This teaching is important to the rest of your life. Read it

prayerfully. It is dedicated to your freedom and success, both spiritually and financially.

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are."

1 Corinthians 1:26-28

God has chosen this method. Some don't know this scripture is in the Bible, even though they

have read it many times. God chose this method of using things that are not manifest (things that you cannot see with the natural eye) *to bring to nought the things that are manifest*. *Nought* means "zero"; "to bring to nought" means to reduce to nothing the things that are manifest.

This is a Bible principle. God chose it. I didn't choose it until after God chose it. God could have done it any way He wanted to, but He chose to do it this way. He chose to use things that are not manifest. He chose spiritual forces that you cannot see, feel, taste, smell or hear to bring to nought the things that are manifest. He chose this method to reduce to nought those things that are not in agreement with the Word of God. If you have a problem and you can see it, then it's in the natural realm. As long as you can see it, you can use your faith and the Word of God to change it.

"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak

...For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but

the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:13,17-18

The unseen realm is the powerful realm. The unseen is governed by God's eternal principles. Here is the principle that God has ordained. God used it all through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. It's the principle that Jesus used in all of His ministry. It's the principle of calling things that are not as though they were. We find Paul's account of God doing this in Romans 4.

"(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."

Romans 4:17

God calls things that are not manifest as though they were manifest. Compare this with what the Apostle Paul said, **"God has chosen the things which are not, to bring to nought things that are."** (1 Corinthians 1:28.) This is God's method. Call for eternal forces that put to nought things that are seen. Call into manifestation the things that are not, and they will replace what is manifest.

Paul said that we should overcome evil with good. When you start talking about calling things that are not as though they were, *some people get the idea you are denying what exists.*

Some believe that confessing the answer is denying the things that exist. But confessing the answer is not denying what exists; it is the principle of calling things that are not as though they were.

DON'T CALL THINGS THAT ARE AS THOUGH THEY WERE NOT

There is a great difference between calling things that are not as though they were and calling things that are as though they are not. God's method is to call things that are not. In other words, He calls them into manifestation. By doing that, He nullifies the problem that exists.

If the problem exists, you don't deny that the problem exists. If you are sick, you don't deny that you are sick. But on the other hand you don't want to always be confessing your sickness either. Some who misunderstand this message think if they are sick, they should say, "I'm not sick." Just denying you are sick won't make you well. In fact, that could be a lie. But there is a difference between a lie and a confession.

Confession is a method of calling things that are not as though they were. If I am sick, I will confess:

I am healed by the stripes of Jesus. I am delivered from the authority of darkness. I am redeemed from the curse of the law. I am calling my body well and healthy in Jesus' name.

I am not denying sickness, I

am denying its right to exist in my body. I am calling for health and healing in my body. That is God's method.

There are those who will say, "You are just trying to act like God."

And I appreciate that; I usually say, "Thank you very much."

I would rather act like God than act like the devil. If I am acting like God, saying what God said about me, then those who are saying what the devil said are acting like the devil.

If you are always quoting what the devil said, then you are agreeing with the devil. The devil will tell you, "You're sick, and you are going to die. You are never going to get any better."

Well, it may look that way on the surface, but don't quote the devil - he is a liar. Even when there is no hope, don't confess no hope, but go to God's Word and get some hope.

When there was no hope, *Abraham believed in hope*. He took God's Word for his hope. He began to say what God said about him. "I am the father of many nations." God forced him into it by changing his name. He had to say, "My name is Abraham," and *Abraham* meant "father of many nations."

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. That was the Word of God concerning Abraham: "*You are the father of nations.*" But he wasn't the father of nations at that time. *But God said he was*. What was God

doing? He was calling for it. God taught Abraham to say what He said by changing his name from Abram to Abraham.

God also spoke to Zacharias, but the reaction was not the same. .

"...the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John...."

...And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man and my wife well stricken in years.

And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season."

Luke 1:13,18-20

Allow me to paraphrase this. God sent an angel to Zacharias to tell him that his prayers were answered, and his wife was going to have a child. Zacharias said, "How do I know you're telling the truth? You'll have to give me a sign."

The angel replied, "I'll give you a sign all right. You won't be able to speak until the day it comes to pass."

Notice how God dealt with these two individuals, Abraham and

Zacharias. Here was a man who was walking in doubt concerning what God said to him. So God seemed to say, "*If we don't get his mouth shut, this will never happen.*"

So the angel stopped Zacharias from talking for nine months. But God renamed Abraham, so he would have to say what God said about him.

Remember that God chose this method of calling things that are not as though they were. But there are some who misunderstand and deny what exists. For instance, someone might say, "I'm going to deny that I have emphysema," and continue to confess that they don't have emphysema.

If they could get rid of it by denying it, they might still die with cancer. So that's not the answer. *God's method is to call the thing that is not as though it were. That does not mean to deny what exists.* You don't call things that are as though they are not. *God's method is to call things that are not manifest as though they were manifest.*

CONFESSION IS NOT A LIE

If you were going to apply God's principles concerning sickness, you would say,

"Thank God, the Bible says that I am healed by the stripes of Jesus. I am redeemed from the curse of the law. The curse of the law was poverty, sickness and spiritual death. First Peter 2:24 says that I was healed

by the stripes of Jesus, and I am confessing these things and saying them in the name of Jesus.

It is causing faith to come, and I am calling my body well. Body, are you listening to me? I am telling you that you are well in the name of Jesus. “

Then someone may say, “I know that you are just lying, because you are hurting.”

I may be hurting, but I am calling for the thing that is not manifest.

“How can you say your body is well when you are sick?”

That’s all the more reason that you should say it. You are calling for the thing that you don’t have. You are calling it into manifestation. There would be no need to call for something that was already manifest.

I am not trying to convince you that I am not sick, or that I am not hurting. If I were, I would be lying. There is a difference between lying and confession, or calling things that are not. If I try to convince you that I already have something that I don’t literally have, then it’s a lie. But if you hear me saying,

“Thank God, my body is well, I am healed, I am delivered, I am free from sickness and disease, and I am calling my body well,” you just heard me calling things that are not. I did not lie to you. I wasn’t talking to you. I didn’t say it for your benefit; I said it for my benefit. I would rather that you had not heard me, because you

are likely to misunderstand me. I am calling for the things that are not manifest until they are manifest.

The principle that God has chosen tells us to call for what is not in our lives but most people just keep calling what is. You hear some say, “I’m going to say it like it is; that’s the way you have to do it. If I say it any other way, I would be lying, so I always just say it like it is.”

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO CATS AND DOGS, THEY DO IT DIFFERENTLY

Let’s see if that is really true in their life. Let’s suppose that person has a dog, and it’s time to feed him. They take the food out some morning, and the dog isn’t there. If they really practice what they say they believe – (that you have to say it like it is) – here is what they will do. They will sit down on the doorstep and start saying, “My dog isn’t here, my dog isn’t here. Oh Lord, my dog is gone. Oh, it’s true, the dog isn’t here.”

They groan all morning saying, “The dog’s not here.”

Finally, their neighbor comes over and says, “What are you doing?”

They reply, “Well, just saying it like it is. The dog is not here. The dog is gone.”

The neighbor says, “Have you tried calling the dog?”

They reply, “No! You can’t do that. You have to say it like it is, and

the dog is not here. The dog is gone.”

It is true that the dog is not there. And the dog may never be there, unless they call him. No one would ever think of doing such a thing. It’s ridiculous. No one would do that in natural things.

You know what they would do if they went out to feed the dog and the dog wasn’t there? They would say, “Here pooch! Here pooch!” – even though pooch was not there.

Are they lying about it when they say, “Here pooch! Here pooch!” when the pooch is not here? They say that they always say it like it is, but if they are going

to say it like it is, they should say, “Yonder pooch! Yonder pooch! Somewhere pooch!” But when it comes to cats and dogs, no one would be that foolish.

Why is it, when we get into the Bible in regard to these principles, we forget about cats and dogs or natural things? For the simple reason that *we have totally separated natural principles from spiritual principles*. We shouldn’t do that, because there are parallels between the two. Whatever you call in the natural will come. And what you call for in the spiritual realm will come as you act on the Word of God.



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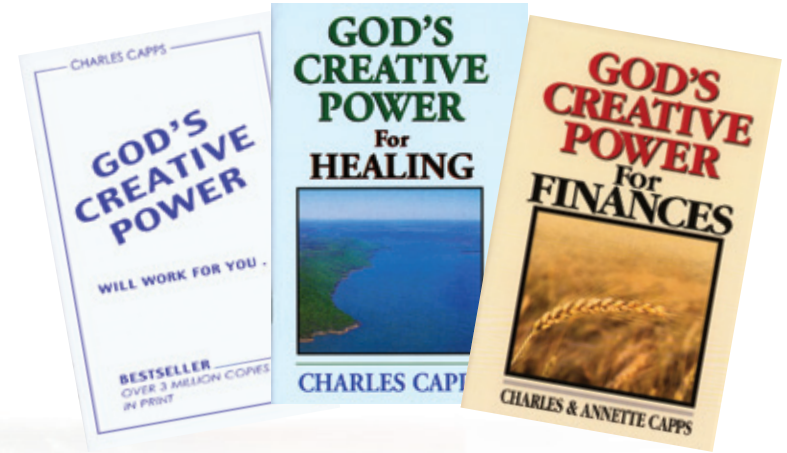
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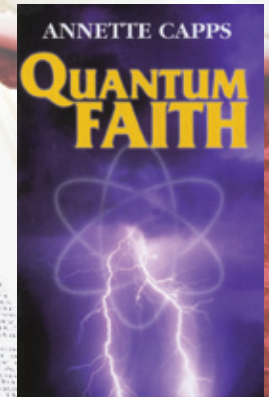
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PROTECTING YOUR HEART

by Annette Capps

Proverbs 4:23 *“Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.”*

The word “keep” here does not mean the same as what we would generally use it as today. Here the word “keep” means to guard or protect. This scripture is what I would call a very choice morsel of wisdom. To guard and protect your heart is extremely important. Why? Because, the Word says out of it flow the issues or springs of life.

Your heart is a spiritual production center. It is within your heart that the Source of life dwells, therefore all the issues of life proceed forth from the heart of man. So important is this, that Jesus said, *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: these are the things which defile*

a man...” Matthew 15:19-20. If it is the things proceeding out of the heart that defile a person then we must protect what goes into our heart.

YOU CAN DEFILE YOUR OWN HEART

What do we need to protect our heart from? Our first key is in Proverbs 4:24 *“Put away from you false and dishonest speech, and willful and contrary talk put far from you.”* You can defile your own heart by your speech! This is your heart’s number one enemy. Your words! Just as your natural heart needs a healthy diet to protect it from a natural heart attack, your heart in your inner man needs a healthy diet to protect it from spiritual heart attack! Don’t be foolish enough to say as I have heard others say, “Oh, it doesn’t matter what I say. It won’t affect me.

God knows what I mean.” God does. But your heart doesn’t. That would be as ridiculous as feeding your natural body on a diet high in fats and saying, “Oh it’s OK, my arteries won’t get clogged because I really didn’t mean to eat all that fat.” You may fool your mind but your body digested and distributed that to every part of your body, including your arteries and heart. Your heart is like soil and God will not be mocked. *Whatever* you sow in your heart *you will reap*. Protect your heart from wrong speech.

PROTECT YOUR HEART FROM DISTRESS

Proverbs 4:25-27 deals with the eyes and what you look at. *“Let your eyes look directly ahead [toward the path of moral courage] And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you [toward the path of integrity]. Consider well and watch carefully the path of your feet, And all your ways will be steadfast and sure. Do not turn away to the right nor to the left [where evil may lurk]; Turn your foot from [the path of] evil.”* Your heart can be protected from damage and distress by taking heed to what you observe and watch. Be very careful what you subject your heart to. Your heart can be put in

a position of stress by subjecting it to ungodly influence. You may not notice an immediate problem from watching certain TV shows or movies. And you can argue that these are not sin. No, they may not be a sin against God but as Paul said, *“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient...”* 1 Corinthians 6:12. In other words, there are many things you can do which are not sin but they may not be good and advantageous for your heart. As a matter of fact, they can become downright damaging over a period of time. I cannot tell you what you should not do and I have no desire to begin a list of do’s and don’ts for Christians. What I am saying is that your own heart will begin to give you warning signs when it is in distress. I am convinced that if each person would learn to listen to their heart, it would save all of us from a lot of trouble.

If we want our lives to be blessed in every way and spiritually productive, we have to protect our production center so that it may run effectively.

PROTECTION FROM DISCOURAGEMENT & DISAPPOINTMENT

From ministering and counseling with people I have found that one of the

causes of discouragement and disappointment is opening your heart to the words of other people. Never subject and expose your heart to the negativity of others. You may say, "How do I do that?" Stay away from people who do not edify and encourage you! I am not saying to stay away from people who will speak the truth to you and sometimes that may not make you happy for the moment. I am saying that if there are people in your life who continually speak negative things and hurt your heart then God doesn't expect you to continually expose yourself to that. If you must be around them, God will show you how to protect your heart from them.

God doesn't expect you to continually expose yourself to the negativity of others.

Proverbs 18:14 *"The strong spirit of a man sustains him in bodily pain or trouble, but a weak and broken spirit who can raise up or bear?"* Keep your heart strong by not exposing it to certain people. The book of Proverbs gives us excellent advice concerning people. It tells us *not* to associate with the flatterer, talebearer or gossip, greedy, slothful, unfaithful, quarrelsome, wrathful, self-indulgent, glutton

and drunkard. How many people could have been saved from heartache and disappointment had they listened to these proverbs? For some reason Christians seem to think that to be Christ-like they must trust everyone. Jesus didn't because He knew what was in men's hearts. But He *loved* them. We can love people and not associate with them. The Word of God gives us the reason, *"lest you learn his ways and get yourself into a snare."* Proverbs 22:25.

PROTECTION FROM FALSE TEACHING

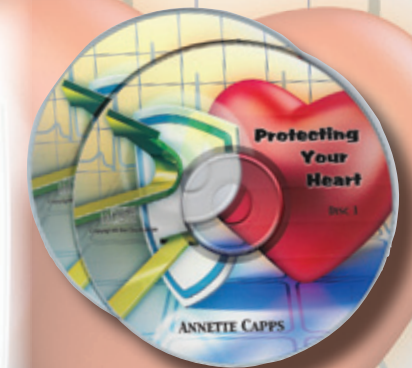
We need to be careful about what kind of teaching we expose our hearts to. Just a little poison may not kill you, but you will not feel too good afterwards. God does not require us to subject ourselves to that which is damaging to our spirits. We are to gird our loins with truth. It was believed that the spirit of man was in the loins. The spirit will be protected with truth.

Guard and protect your heart above everything you guard. Your heart has the ability to produce all the good things of life for you so keep it with all diligence. *"A sound heart is the life of the flesh..."* Proverbs 14:30.

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