

## GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part XXVIII  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16*

Introduction: As we conclude the first decade of 2000, the potential for the church is limitless. For so long we have allowed liberal theologians to cast their bias on the Scriptures. They have often spread misinformation, discrediting some of the fundamental truths of the Bible. Dr. Finis Dake, the author of "*God's plan for man*," "*The Annotated Bible*," and other works, made a statement that I believe every Christian should observe. "Take the Bible literally where it is at all possible; if symbolic, figurative, or typical language is used, then look for the literal truth it intends to convey." For instance, a parable is given as a means to an end. It is directing you toward a point. We have to give God credit for being intelligent enough to mean what He says and not have to edit His Word.

### I. God's magnificent idea

#### A. Our confession as believers. *1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:12.*

1. *Matthew 12:34* says we speak what is in our heart. The mouth is like a faucet that lets out what is inside. If our heart is filled with the Word of God and if we are standing in faith on what God's Word says, then that faith will be synchronized through our mouth. But on the other hand, if we are filled with unbelief and fear or bound by the strongholds of the devil, then that will manifest itself by spewing forth out of our mouth.
2. When Satan attacks us, he attacks us through our thought processes. If he can establish a stronghold in this way, then we begin to confess what is contrary to the Word of God. Doubts sink down into our spirit, and a negative confession follows.
3. When we continue to talk contrary to the Word, the heart gets contaminated. Out of that kind of heart comes gossip, back-biting, division, hatred, fear, lies, etc. The more we confess what is contrary to God's Word, the more we reinforce the stronghold.
4. *Romans 10:8-10.* In *verse 8*, Paul mentions the mouth first and the heart second. In *verse 9*, it is the mouth first and the heart second. But in *verse 10*, the order is reversed with the heart mentioned first and the mouth second. This illustrates a very important Scriptural principle. When we come to the Word of God and supply it against an attack of the devil, the reality of Satan's stronghold is evident. We may be sick and endeavor to bring the Word of God against the sickness. According to the pattern in these verses, it is necessary for us to begin by putting God's Word in our mouth as an act of our will and to bring it against the sickness. By confessing it or saying the same thing with our mouth that God says in His Word, we receive it in our heart. The more often we confess with our mouth, the more firmly it becomes established in our heart.
5. There comes a time when the heart responds to what the mouth has been saying, and at a certain point, there is a *rhema* revelation qualifying the heart to produce thoughts in line with the Word of God. In the Hebrew language, the phrase "*to learn by heart*" actually is translated "*to learn by mouth.*"
6. Every time we are attacked by the devil, we come to God's Word and begin to confess it. At times there may be a struggle to do so because the Word of God is saying something contrary to what is happening. Confessing God's Word demands that we resist our feelings and make the words of our mouth to agree with God's Word.
7. The essence of confession is the same as the sacrifice of praise. Confession in this context becomes an act of the will rather than an act of the feelings. The sacrifice of praise literally is confessing to the Name of Jesus. Both the sacrifice of praise and confessing to the Name of Jesus proceed from an act of the will. Feelings waver and will move us away from the truth of the Word.

Conclusion: The attitude of confession must be one of submission to God's will and to Scripture. We can only confess things in God's Word that are the expressed will of God for us. God is reviving His church. The move is on, and we are riding on its crest. We have yet to see what God will do through us if we keep our eyes on His Word and not on the contrary circumstances.