

## Conquering With Words

*Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.*

*Acts 11:14*

The Old and New Testaments complement and support each other while at the same time demonstrating a drastic difference. The difference can be briefly summarized by John 1:17 *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*. The first five books of the Old Testament record the development of the nation of Israel and are followed by the book of Joshua which records the conquering of the heathen to acquire the Promised Land. The four Gospels of the New Testament record the foundational development of Christianity, after which the book of Acts records the conquering of Satan's kingdom of darkness with the message of the crucified and resurrected Savior. Aided by God's miraculous interventions while using their earthly weapons, the Old Testament soldiers advanced into the Promised Land. The New Testament saints filled with the Holy Spirit penetrated the darkness of heathendom with the power of salvific words. The Old Testament records the conquering of the surrounding heathen and the setting up of an earthly kingdom that lasted for several hundred years, while the early Christians went forth with the Gospel which influenced and impacted multitudes of souls for an eternal kingdom. The power of that early message continues to this present day and will continue until Jesus returns.

Peter's words that were told to Cornelius in Acts 10 are the same words that believers throughout the ages have embraced to receive eternal life. The Acts of the Apostles record the conquering power of those words. Its chapters document the conversions of myriads of people with varied backgrounds, such as the Roman centurion and a Philippian jailor, thousands of Jewish believers in Jerusalem, a seeking eunuch from distant Ethiopia, the first European convert Lydia, polytheistic adherents of Athens, and those benighted by the magical arts at Ephesus. The Roman Empire persecuted Christians who conveyed these words, yet the converting power of their words eventually conquered that empire. A cursory glance at world history reveals the obvious influence that the message of those words of the Gospel has had on the nations.

As believers in our generation, we must value the delivering power of these words. Yielding to this message liberated us from the clutches of Satan and entered our names in heaven's register. These words can continue to equip and energize us on our Christian journey. They can conquer our fears and worries while continuing to remind us of the hope set before us. As Peter spoke these words to Cornelius, we can give those same words to those that the Lord ordains to cross our path. May the Lord lead us this day to someone who is waiting to hear the life-giving words of the gospel.

~ J. Ekis