



JOYCE MEYER
MINISTRIES®

CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN LIP & LIFE

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

Joyce Meyer Ministries

Nanakramguda

Hyderabad - 500 008

Andhra Pradesh

INDIA

91-40-2300 6777

www.jmmindia.org

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CLOSING THE GAP *Between* Lip&Life

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Joyce Meyer Ministries
P.O. Box 655 • Fenton, MO 63026
636-349-0303 • 1-800-727-WORD (9673)
www.joycemeyer.org

CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN LIP AND LIFE

I. No Power In Talk Alone

- A. **Isaiah 29:13** – People who honor God with their lips and not their lives are not pleasing to Him.
 - 1. Their hearts and minds are far from Him.
- B. **Matthew 15:1-8** – A religious spirit talks the talk but does not walk the walk.
- C. **Mark 7:5-7** – Jesus is not impressed with outward acts alone – they must come from a pure heart!
- D. **I Corinthians 4:19-20** – The kingdom of God consists not in talk, but in power (moral power and excellence of soul).

II. Moral Power And Excellence Of Soul

- A. Moral power – The ability to say **NO** to wrong things
 - 1. **Isaiah 7:14-15** – We eat the good things God has predestined for us **WHEN** we learn enough to refuse evil and choose good.
 - 2. **Deuteronomy 30:19** – . . . *I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore **choose life** that you and your descendants may live.*
 - 3. **Joshua 24:15** – Choose you this day whom you will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

- B. Be doers, not just hearers only.
 - 1. **James 1:22** – If we hear and don't do, we are deceived.
 - 2. **John 13:3-17** (KJV) – Jesus taught “foot-washing” (servanthood) and said, “Happy are ye, if ye do it.”

**THIS IS WHERE WE SEE THE POWER OF GOD
(CHOICES, HOLINESS, and DOING).**

- C. Excellence of soul
 - 1. Mind – will – emotions
 - 2. Excellent thoughts, decisions, and excellence in stability – all of these are choices.
 - 3. **II Corinthians 4:7-9** – An example of how the power of God manifests in stability during trials

III. The Lamb That Was Slain

- A. Moral excellence is the result of three things:
 - 1. The grace of God
 - 2. Right choices based on knowledge of God's will
 - 3. A willingness to suffer
- B. Suffering
 - 1. **I Peter 4:1-2** – Since Christ suffered (in the flesh) for us, we should be willing to do the same. Anyone who suffers in the flesh is finished with intentional sin and lives for God's pleasure.
 - 2. **Romans 8:16-17** – If we are to share His glory, we must share His sufferings.

- C. The suffering of obedience
 - 1. When we choose to follow God instead of the flesh, the world, the devil, or our friends – the flesh suffers.

- D. **Philippians 3:10-13** – Paul was willing to suffer in order to be transformed into His likeness.
 - 1. Transformed or translated?
 - 2. Transformation (metamorphous) requires some struggle and pain. Think of the butterfly!

- E. Suffer (defined/Vine’s Greek) – To permit, to let, to permit further, to bear, to endure.

(JM) – To not run away from hard things.

 - 1. Hard work, hard truth, difficult transitions or changes, hard to say no to self and yes to God

- F. **Revelation 13:8** – The Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world
 - 1. His decision was made long before the events took place. **Quality decisions were made because He was willing to pay the price.**

- G. **Galatians 2:20** – It is no longer “I” who live.

IV. Life Comes Out Of Death.

- A. **John 12:24** – Unless the grain of wheat dies, it abides alone.

- B. **II Corinthians 4:10-12** – Our willingness to die to the flesh produces life, not only for ourselves but also for others.

- C. Death to our ways, plans, will, thoughts, and emotions

V. Using The Power Of God To Live Holy Lives Releases Power In Other Areas.

- A. First, the power comes to produce moral excellence.
 - 1. **Acts 10:38** – How God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and power; who went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were oppressed of the devil.
- B. Kingdom benefits come from following the King's orders.
 - 1. We have so much democracy in America that we find it difficult to really understand living in a kingdom where the subjects must follow the king.
- C. **Luke: Chapter 4** – Jesus passed every test (by the power of God), and then more power was released for Him to begin His public ministry.

VI. Holiness Requires Separation.

- A. Holiness (defined/Vine's Greek) – “Sanctification”
 - 1. A separation to God. The conduct befitting those so separated. The state predetermined by God for believers into which by grace He calls them, and in which they begin their Christian course and so pursue it. Hence, they are called “saints.” This “holiness” should be manifested in personal conduct.
 - 2. **Hebrews 7:25** – While we are pursuing holiness (seriously pursuing), Jesus stands in the gap for us. He is our Intercessor.

I John 2:1

- B. **Acts 19:8-9** – The separation of believers from unbelievers (or even believers who act like unbelievers)
 - 1. **II Corinthians 6:14-18**

- C. **Haggai 2:12-13** – Holiness is not infectious, but unholiness is.
1. I can catch a disease, but not health.
- D. **Proverbs 22:24-25** – *Make no friendships with a man given to anger, and with a wrathful man do not associate, lest you learn his ways and get yourself into a snare.*
- E. **Proverbs 23:20-21** – *Do not associate with winebibbers; be not among them nor among gluttonous eaters of meat, for the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty, and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.*
- F. **Psalms 1:1** – Don't sit inactive where sinners, the scornful, and the mockers gather.

