

## Speak - continued

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Jude 3).

The religious world uses the word “spiritual” to mean a person who is concerned with non-material things, contemplative, philosophical, or benevolent ... “he is really spiritual because he talks a lot about a higher being ... a spiritual moment is emotionally stimulating ... “the beautiful sunset was really spiritual”. However, in the Bible, a spiritual person allows his spirit to be guided by the words of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament (Romans 8:4,14; I Corinthians 2:13-15; Galatians 5:16-25; 6:1; Colossians 1:9).

Lastly, the religious world uses the word “Christian” to mean any person who claims to believe in Jesus Christ; any descent, respectable person ... “we live in a Christian nation” ... “he may not go to church, but he’s a good Christian man”. However, in the Bible, a Christian is any person who has obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ and lives faithfully by the same gospel (Acts 11:26; 26:28; I Peter 4:16).

It is true that many in the religious world misuse Bible terms without any wrong motives. Nonetheless, false ideas are conveyed and erroneous doctrines are practiced with inaccurate language (a right Bible word with a wrong definition). Let us all speak with language that is without corruption (Ephesians 4:29) and without condemnation (Titus 2:8). Let us all speak where the Bible speaks! - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- If our faith does not work, it is dead.
- Untold thousands die and are lost every day - untold!
- It’s easy to find fault in children ... when they belong to someone else.
- Great trials prepare us for great responsibilities.
- Contentment comes not with greater wealth, but with fewer wants.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Speak Where the Bible Speaks

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When we lose our language we lose our identity (Nehemiah 13:24). Some religious people and even some brethren today have lost their identity and cannot speak in the language of the New Testament church. Faithful brethren care to “hold” on to their New Testament identity while others do not care (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11,15; 2 Timothy 1:13; 2:2; 4:2-4).

Our speech tells others who we really are (Judges 12:5-6; Matthew 26:73). When we speak and act we do not want to preach another gospel (Galatians 1:6-9). We want to do God’s work in God’s way (Ephesians 2:10). We demand Bible authority for all we do in religion (Colossians 3:17). We hold to a pattern of sound words (2 Timothy 1:13). We do not want to go beyond the word of God (2 John 9-11; Revelation 22:18-19). We do not mishandle the word of God (2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:1-2). We want to use Bible terms in Bible ways (1 Peter 4:11).

But, some religious people misuse Bible words out of ignorance and others misuse Bible words to defend a religious doctrine. Let’s look at a few examples.

The religious world uses the word “miracle” to mean any remarkable, amazing, or wonderful happening ... “it was a miracle rescue” ... “he discovered a miracle drug”. However, in the Bible, a miracle is a direct, supernatural, divine act of God that suspends or circumvents natural law:

mighty works, wonders, and signs (Acts 2:22). Miracles were performed to confirm the revelation from God and then were removed (Mark 6:20; Hebrews 2:3-4; 1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

The religious world uses the word “pastor” to mean a preacher (protestants) or a priest (Catholics, Lutherans) ... “my pastor had a great sermon last Sunday”. However, in the Bible, a pastor (shepherd), found only once in the New Testament, is another term for an elder (Ephesians 4:11). Pastors are elders, not preachers, who “feed” and “tend” the flock of God (Acts 20:17,28; 1 Peter 5:2).

The religious world uses the word “fellowship” to mean getting together to eat and socialize ... “we will all meet after church for a fun, food, and fellowship in the fellowship hall”. However, in the Bible, fellowship refers to a spiritual relationship between Christians and the Godhead (1 John 1:3,6,7). Fellowship is limited to activities that Christians do in the Lord’s work, not social or recreational activities.

The religious world uses the word “baptism” to mean a ceremony admitting a person into a particular church through sprinkling, pouring, or immersion in water ... “my friend was baptized into the Baptist Church on Sunday”. However, in the Bible, baptism is immersion in water (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12) for the remission of sins and to place one into the one body of Christ (Acts 2:38,47; 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27).

The religious world uses the word “church” to mean a building belonging to Christians as opposed to a Synagogue (Jews), a Mosque (Muslims), or a Temple (Buddhists) ... “we attended a beautiful church wedding last weekend”. However, in the Bible, a church is always a group of Christians in one place (Acts 5:11; 8:4; 11:22; 1 Corinthians 1:2), a region (Romans 16:16; 2 Corinthians 8:1; Galatians 1:2,22; Revelation 1:4), or everywhere and in all times (Hebrews 12:23).

The religious world also uses the word “church” to mean a particular sect, denomination or division of Christians ... “I was raised in the Presbyterian Church, but now I go to the Baptist Church”. However, in the Bible, church is always a group of Christians belonging to the one body of Christ, not the many divided bodies of men (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22; 4:4-6; 5:23; Colossians 1:18).

The religious world uses the word “faith” to mean an inner, mystical feeling you have, or a way of life, or what you have when you don’t have anything else ... “we accept things by faith we don’t know about” ... “we take a leap of faith in the dark” ... “we have an unquestioning faith in this person”. However, in the Bible, the word faith is a subjective trust and confidence (Romans 1:8; 14:22) based upon and generated by the objective evidence of God’s word (Acts 6:7; Romans 10:17; Galatians 1:23; Ephesians 4:5; Hebrews 11:1;