

*THERE IS A RIVER
WHOSE STREAMS
SHALL MAKE GLAD
THE CITY OF GOD.,
(PSALM 46:4)*



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*Knowing Jesus
v/s
The Power of Positive
Thinking*

PURPOSE

The purpose of Mountain Stream Ministries is to speak prophetically to the Body of Christ and to impart and teach Kingdom Principles and Spiritual Order.

Mountain Stream Ministries accomplishes this purpose by providing resource materials, and by teaching through various venues.

Thank you for your commitment in praying for and supporting God’s Calling upon *Rick Fultz*. He and his staff at *Mountain Stream Ministries* endeavor to minister Godly encouragement and direction to the hearts of God’s people. ***We minister to those whom God has placed in our lives. (John 17:9) I am praying for them. I am not praying (requesting) for the world, but for those You have given Me, for they belong to You. (Amplified Bible)***

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The Power of Positive Thinking May Deter You from Receiving God's Best! What, did I mean that? Yes, I am afraid so! Especially if you are putting *all* your eggs in the power of *positive thinking* basket, you need to read this article!

For clarity, I need to make this statement, "The Bible does *not* teach *against* positive thinking. In fact, it encourages this practice." So, do not go out and misquote me by saying that I am against this practice. "I am not!"

Positive thinking works, but we will investigate how this practice when *misused* and *misunderstood* can actually work *against* you.

You need to read this article if:

1. You want to be successful without being bankrupt of peace, love, true friends, happiness, and fulfillment .
2. You desire to be the best you can be.
3. You desire to declare positive words over your life and others *correctly*.
4. You want to see positive results when you speak positive words.
5. You are in pursuit for a better life.

This almost sounds like an add inviting you to a *life coach* session. Well call it what you want, but this article will set you free to live a better life if you will take the time to read it. *If you own a library of positive-thinking books and you still feel unfulfilled in life you need to read this article!*

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Before we discuss the topic of *Positive Thinking* **let's take** a closer look at the *power* of the tongue and how it affects our lives. *You may be surprised to discover how deceiving Positive Thinking can be without the influence of the Holy Spirit guiding your thoughts! For what you think,...**you will eventually speak!** Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

The Bible teaches that the power of *life* and *death* resides in our tongue.

Luke 6:45 (New American Standard)

45"The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good ; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil ; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

Proverbs 18:21 (New American Standard)

21Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

By this, we can see that in order to reap good fruit in our lives it is imperative that we speak positive words. I wanted to make this point clear before we go any further into our investigation of the practice of positive thinking, better known as *The Power of Positive Thinking*.

Again, I do not want anyone to think that the Bible teaches against positive thinking. We will look at this a little closer later in this article. There have been many books written on the subject of *The Power of Positive Thinking*. For some this practice has caused success in many areas of their lives.

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However, just speaking *positive words* is *not* the *complete* formula for receiving all there is in life. Especially (when left to itself) positive speaking is *not* the complete recipe for entering **into God's best for our lives! Let us look at positive thinking without** the influence of God guiding our *thoughts*, which eventually becomes our *words*.

We need to note here the word *Power*. The power of positive thinking is the focus. People who focus on *speaking positive words* expecting the power of this practice to work for them may find themselves successful but unfulfilled! Success does *not* guarantee peace and fulfillment in one's life.

Here is where the problem arises. There is *a subtle but powerful misconception when a person depends on this practice alone*. To rely solely on the *power* of our words is a subtle yet dangerous and sometimes deadly approach in the hope of achieving success in our lives! What *power* do you rely on when reaching for success in your life? I hope that you are not *totally* relying on the *power* of your own words!

To rely solely and exclusively on the power of your words is a deception that the secular world has bought into! There is an underlying spirit in this secular approach for success that breeds an attitude of being self-sufficient!

When a person looks inwardly and relies totally on their own power or strength, they are not looking to the Lord for help! David wrote in the book of (Psalms 121:1&2) of where our help comes from.

Read these verses in the following translations. You will see from where your help comes.

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Psalm 121:1&2 (New American Standard)

The LORD the Keeper of Israel

A Song of Ascents

1 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come?

2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1&2 (The Message)

1 I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from mountains?

2 No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth, and mountains.

These bible verses make it clear as to where you are to look, and where you will find help for walking through your daily life. If you look to the Lord, you will find help!

The Power of Words

Either words spoken over us will keep us in bondage, or they will encourage and motivate us to reach for something greater and better for our lives. However, these positive words (though they may produce positive results) are still *limited* without the *power of God's eternal infinite wisdom*. When someone begins speaking positive words they may eventually see results and get the ball rolling, *but is the ball rolling in the right direction?*

You may end up screaming, "Oh Lord what have I done? How did I end up here? How can I get out of this?" I think you get my point. *Just to utter words (even though they may be positive) is a dangerous approach for someone seeking to be successful in their life.*

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Let us think on this a minute. Can a person be caught up in the *power* of positive thinking, and lose their way? Can this approach to be successful lead a person down the wrong path in life? Yes, emphatically yes! Why, because practice is based on a person totally relying on their own inner power and thinking ONLY on the things they desire! Jesus promised that He would give us our hearts desire, so what is the problem? I am glad you asked! God will give us our hearts desire, but the Bible clearly teaches that when we receive Jesus into our lives as our Lord and Savior all things are made new, which brings a change into our lives!

We think differently because the Holy Spirit is now guiding us into all truth! Our approach to life and our desires come into **proper alignment with God's principles. We may still struggle** with the flesh and its desires at times, but through the saving power of Jesus, we do not have to settle for this type of lifestyle! You have *power through Jesus* to change your life to the positive!

I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens **me... That is if you are** *allowing* Him to lead you. *I hope you are beginning to see that the power of positive thinking by itself is a limited power!* You can be saved but not led by the Holy Spirit. You can be redeemed by the powerful blood of Jesus, yet you can still be in debt to your own soulish carnal thinking, *even if your thinking is positive!* Selah! The Bible clearly teaches us that we are to take every thought into captivity to the obedience to Christ!

Bible Reference:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (New American Standard)

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful

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for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (The Message)

3 The world is unprincipled. It's dog-eat-dog out there! The world doesn't fight fair. But we don't live or fight our battles that way - never have and never will.

4 The tools of our trade aren't for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture.

5 We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and emotion and impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.

We need to be careful of our words. We need to be conscious of what we are speaking over our lives and the lives of others!

*Positive thinking does have power, but it is limited within itself and falls short in the scope of God's best for your life. Let us look further into this *powerful yet limited* approach to life.*

The Power of Positive Thinking:

1. **Can lead you astray from God's purpose for your life.**
2. Cannot produce your God given destiny without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
3. **Is limited by the perimeters of man's sphere of thinking, reasoning, ideas, and wisdom.**
4. Cannot produce the fullness that God intends for your life.

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5. Is proud, arrogant, self-sufficient, and makes no room for God.
6. Is lofty, self-centered, self-endowed, overestimated, over-rated, hyped, puffed up, engorged, and self-glorified.

You may be thinking I am being a little too harsh concerning the *practice of positive thinking*. Actually, I am not being harsh towards positive thinking at all. What I am attempting to do is get your attention as to how the enemy of your soul could use the practice of positive thinking against you!

You may think that the practice of *the power of positive thinking* is a contemporary approach to life. There are many contemporary books written on this subject. Most of this teaching comes from Norman Vincent Peale. (Dr. Norman Vincent Peale was a minister and author and a progenitor of the theory of "**positive thinking**." From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. This teaching has branched out into many venues. It is now accepted as the standard for teaching the positive approach to life by a multitude of life coaches. *You may be surprised to discover that Dr. Norman Vincent Peale is not the originator of this approach to life.*

Here is an example of a group of men in the Bible fail-
ing horribly by using the *Power of Positive Thinking*.

Acts 19 (New American Standard)

Miracles at Ephesus

11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,
12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the

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Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."

14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

You can see clearly in the Biblical example that even though these men were speaking positive words while believing in their heart that their words would not fail them; they still fell short of success because they had limited power. These words worked for Jesus and Paul so why did these words not work for them? They were depending on the *wrong power to succeed!* They were depending on their *own power* expecting these words to work for them. Why not try it after all; they had seen these words work for Jesus and Paul. They bought into the lie that *just speaking words* (even words that had previously produced success for Jesus and Paul) would work for them as well. Clearly, we can see that their positive thinking and speaking (even while believing in their heart) left them naked, beaten up, wounded, and running for their lives! Selah!

Does that ring a bell concerning some things you may have tried? Have you experienced your positive words failing you (even though you believed in your heart) and leaving you beaten up and wounded in life? Maybe you were doing as these men did. They spoke words, but had no power because they had no relationship with the power giver. Maybe you know the Lord, and your words and faith seem to have failed you. Maybe this happened because you were speaking words on your own behalf and not allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you the words to speak. We must be led by the Holy Spirit, always!

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Knowing Jesus is The Key to Success

The Holy Spirit Empowers the Believer to Speak From a Wellspring of Endless Wisdom and Knowledge

If we know Jesus, we can *talk* and *walk* in His power! It is through *Christ Jesus* that brings the *correct order* to our *spoken words*. It is through *Christ Jesus* that enables our tongue to *line up perfectly with God's purpose and plan for our life*. It is through *Christ Jesus* that the *declarations* we *speak* over our lives functions properly in bringing positive changes to our lives. We must *know Him* in order for our *decorations* to bring a positive change into our hearts and lives! Selah!

It is only by our relationship with Jesus that we are connected to God! This is the only avenue that our decorations find the power, *proper order, and authority* to change our lives! *This is the only venue, place, or atmosphere, that our decorations will bring forth good fruit!* *Our decorations must be more than mere words!* *They must be born of the Holy Spirit!* *The words that we declare over our lives must come from a heart that is rooted in the knowledge of Jesus, our Lord, and Savior!*

Our Sons and Daughters

Everyone has experienced the power of words spoken over him or her. Our sons and daughters are very sensitive to the atmosphere that is created around them just by the words they hear! They totally depend on us as their parents to teach them how to walk through this life! *We as parents must stay alert to the words spoken over our offspring.* We must guard, guide, and censure, the words that they hear! If we fail to censor and guard what enters their hearts on a daily basis, then we are guilty of setting them up for failure, fear, rebellion, and dishonor, to rule and reign over their life! *We as parents do have*

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the power of persuasion! We can abuse this power and cause our children to fall short in life, or we can stand true and strong on the truths that strengthen them to excel beyond our greatest imaginations! The questions we should ask ourselves are:

1. Am I as a parent teaching and persuading my sons and daughters with the correct biblical principles?
2. Am I teaching my sons and daughters in the spirit of excellence?
3. Am I guilty of passing my responsibility as a parent on to others, such as schoolteachers, ministers, church staff, grandparents, friends, and extended family?

God has given all parents the opportunity and the power to prepare their sons and daughters for living life more abundantly. *Please do not wait any longer. Teach sound doctrine and biblical principles to your offspring now while you have the opportunity, or you could find yourself spending countless hours with counselors, trying to remove/deliver your sons and daughters from bad; attitudes, opinions, rebellion, and dishonor, which leads to a wrong concept of how to live their life!*

One of the most painful things in life is to see your sons and daughters held captive with strongholds. Suspended between life and death (living a prosperous life v/s a life full of disappointments and failure) from bad past experiences and influences.

We as parents must fight for our sons and daughters no matter what the cost! Say, "Amen" and agree! Fight for them today then you can celebrate their God given successes tomorrow, the next day, and the next, as they walk through life as you have so earnestly taught them.

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Conclusion

I hope you see how *imperative* it is for you not to *totally rely on your own words and your own inner power*. You must look to the Lord and seek his face to receive clarity and direction. He will also give you the understanding of how to engage and connect to the destiny He has prepared for you. God will empower, give you the power (there's that word again) *power* to pursue and succeed in the plan and purpose for your life. In all areas of your life, you can succeed in Him!

This is the difference between the secular or worldview approach to being successful in life. The secular approach makes *no room* for God in the equation to find purpose, direction, and peace. *People who pursue life with a secular or worldview totally rely on their own wisdom and power to succeed! People who pursue a life in God totally rely on the wisdom and power of God to lead, guide, and to empower them for success.*

What power are you relying on? Remember, success alone will not bring peace, contentment, or fulfillment no matter how wealthy or influential one may become! Without God as the center of your life, it is impossible to achieve and be successful in the higher dimension God intended for your life.

People who pursue life with a secular approach totally depending on their own wisdom and power can achieve much but have settled for less! Selah!

They may become wealthy and influential but they run the high risk of not being fulfilled in life. *They may be wealthy and influential but they are bankrupt concerning the assets of peace, purpose, and a relationship with God!* Without God being the center of your life, it is impossible to achieve the wisdom, knowledge, and *power* to be successful in the higher di-

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mension God intended for your life! The Bible clearly teaches and instructs us that it is in Him (God) that we live and move and have our being! *It is impossible to achieve the ultimate success in life without God as your source!* Selah!

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Rick Fultz is recognized as a man of integrity, and he is esteemed as a minister to the body of Christ. He teaches the importance of Kingdom



Order and God's Grace. He serves in various facets of ministry as author, publisher, counselor, prophet and teacher. His prophetic gifting enables him in speaking, encouraging, and directing with a spirit of compassion, humility, and precision. His prophetic insight and walk with God has caused many to be liberated from the bondages of religiosity. He is the founder and president of Mountain Stream Ministries.

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