

Sermon on Use the Word to Restore your Situation

Kwabena D. Akufo

12/17/2006

Text:

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

Introduction

We will learn from this passage that the Word can restore your God-given situation. An old antique furniture becomes ugly after years of dirt, bruises, spills and breakages. To restore it means to take it back to the original nice condition. This means you must remove the crud and bruises, repair the breakages, and polish it.

To restore your situation means to take you back to your divinely-appointed destiny given you when you were created. God has good plans for you as he says in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” But the devil has harmful plans for you that are contrary to God’s plan for you because his plan is “to steal and kill and destroy.” (John 10:10)

Over the years your situation has been bruised, dirtied, messed up, and broken. I talked to someone who told me about the problems he has faced in his life. Any job he gets he loses in a short time through lay-offs. He has tried to do some business but each collapsed because people he trusted embezzled the funds. To him, everything he touches or tries becomes a failure. He has no peace of mind because of this. He believes things are not meant to be this way for him but does not understand why. I pointed him to Christ as the only one that can give him peace of mind. I know that suffering can develop you as a Christian but whether the suffering is for your development or not you need Christ to deliver you from that suffering.

We will learn from this passage that when things have not gone the way you expect in your life you can use the Word of God to restore your divinely-appointed destiny. You can appropriate the Word of God to reclaim your destiny.

How is this possible?

The Word is self-powered

The Word is the self-expression of God.

In verse 1 of our passage, we read “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” The first phrase gives the word an eternal attribute. The Word is as eternal as God is eternal. The second phrase means the Word has a separate identity from God but then the third phrase brings the two together and says the Word is an extension of the personality of God. It is not identical to God but whatever God is, the Word also is. We may, therefore, refer to what is called the Word in this verse more appropriately as the God-Word. Another way of looking at it is that God and the Word are connected to the same root but they are differing stems emanating from that root. But because the Word is the self-expression of God, the Word is God. That is, as I have already said the Word is the God-Word.

When you see a writing on a wall, the style of writing, and the thought and usage of words in the writing can reveal the author. If the writing reveals that I am the author we may speak of my writing as the Akufo-word. That is, the writing on the wall is a typical Kwabena Akufo expression. In the same way, though the Word is separate from God it is the handwriting, the thought, and the expression of God, so it embodies all that God is. As a result, all the attributes of God apply equally to the Word: (a) the Word is eternal, (b) the Word has creative power, (c) the Word is life-giving, and (d) the Word illuminates or brings forth light.

Why do the four letters, “Word,” have this uniqueness?

The Word has a special meaning, Logos, not captured completely in English

As you may know the New Testament was written in Greek and the English Bible is a translation from the Greek. The Greek form of what is written as the Word in this verse 1 is the Greek word, “logos.” Logos means more than just Word, but on the surface Word closely approximates its meaning. But the full import of the word “logos” is a word in action, an expression of thought, and a self-existing organism operating independently. So, the Logos is the self-expression of God, or as I have called it, the God-Word.

Verses 2 of our main text says, “He was with God in the beginning.” This appears to repeat the verse 1 which says “In the beginning was the Word.” But the emphasis here is that the Word is now personified by the use of the word “He.” Who was with God in the beginning? “He,” the Word, is the person who was with God in the beginning. That is the Word is a being and not just the self-expression of God.

The logos, in its ordinary meaning, is like speech charged with power that can incite an uprising. If human speech can be powerful enough to incite an uprising, how much more can the self-expression of God, the God-Word. That is why Psalm 107:20 says, “He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.” The Logos, that is, the God-Word, is a self-existing organism that carries out the command of God to go and heal. “He sent forth” implies God sent the Word on an errand. That is, the Word is the errand-being of God that goes out and performs God’s commands. So when God speaks “let there be light,” the God-Word goes out and performs that command and light comes into existence.

So, let’s summarize what is embodied or contained in what verse 1 calls the Word. The Word is the self-expression of God, which is self-powered independently and eternally existing with the full attributes of God and serves as the errand being of God. We may call it the God-Word. Because of this nature of the Word, the Word can change any hopeless situation to a hopeful situation. Once the Word goes out, it can heal, and it can bring life to any dead situation.

How does the Word bring life to your dead situation?

The Creative Power of the Word restores your destined situation

The Word as Creator is also Re-Creator

Verses 3 of our main text says, “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” This verse teaches that there is nothing that you see that was created by somebody else. Everything you see was created by the Word and by Him alone. The Word is the agency of creation. As the creator, the Word is also capable of restoring back to the original creation. That is, in the new covenant the Word serves as the agent of recreation. God recreates what Satan ruined. Therefore, any situation that Satan has ruined, the Word can restore.

When a car manufacturer finds a defect in a car design, the engineer who designed the part originally is the one who can redesign it successfully. The mechanics at the car dealer cannot do it well even though they can install the new design. The designer is the best re-designer. In the same way, the Word created you and your life and destined abundant life for you. Satan, however, steals, kills, and destroys situations in your life. The creator Word is the only one that can recreate your situation, thereby restoring you to your original God-ordained destiny. You can and must use the Word to restore your destined situations.

The Word gives Life to your Dead Situation

The Word is full of life and life-giving

In the first part of verse 4, we read, “In him [that is, in the Word] was life.” If someone is not breathing, you give them mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The one who has life gives life to the lifeless. When Adam was created lifeless, God breathed into him and he became a living being. “In him was life” means the Word is an organism – that is, it is a dynamic living self-expression of God. Since the Word is of the same root as God, it is as living and life-giving as God is living and life-giving and that is why Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is living and active.”

The Word’s life resuscitates dead situations

Since there is life in the Word, when the Word is sent forth into any dead situation, the situation will be resuscitated. The Word brings life into dead situations. The Word restores any and all dead situations back to living situations. The Word has life and hence cannot exist in a dead situation. It brings life to it. There are examples in scripture that show the Word bringing life to a dead situation.

In the Old Testament, we find the episode where Ezekiel was taken to the valley of dry bones by the Spirit of God. God asked him to speak the Word into this death valley saying, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” (Ezekiel 37:9) When Ezekiel spoke the God-Word, the Logos, the self-existing and empowered Word went forth into the valley and recreated and resuscitated the dead dry bones into living beings. This happened because the Word has life in it and as verse 3 of our main text tells us the Word is also the original creator. Therefore, as the creator, the Word can recreate the dead beings into living beings. That is the Word uniquely has restorative power. The Word can restore dead situations.

In the New Testament, a centurion came to see Jesus to heal his sick servant. The centurion believed in the life-giving and restorative power of the Word and believed the Word to be the errand-being of God and so he wanted Jesus to send the Word on an errand to heal his sick servant. He told Jesus, “Just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” (Matthew 8:8-9) Jesus obliged him and sent forth the Word, who healed the centurion’s servant.

Conclusion

Let’s summarize what we have learnt. We have learnt that the Word as described by John 1:1-4 is more appropriately called the God-Word. The God-Word is the self-expression of God, which is self-powered independently and eternally existing with the full attributes of God and serves as the errand being of God. Since there is life in the Word, when the Word is sent forth into any dead situation, the situation will be resuscitated. The Word brings life into dead situations.

How do you use the Word to restore your situation?

You must be sanctioned by God to use the restorative power of the Word by becoming a child of God. You become a child of God by accepting Jesus Christ as your personal savior and lord. You must study the Bible, which is the Word of God, and memorize parts of the Word. You must live a life consistent with the Word that you have studied. You must spend time in prayer using the Word that you have memorized to deal with the troublesome situations in your life.

Begin today to use the Word as a restorative and conquering tool.

Use God's self-powered Word to restore your broken situations.

I pray for the restoration of your marriage to the divine order of marriage because "what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Matthew 19:6)

I pray for the restoration of your career, your finances, and all situations in your life to your divinely appointed destiny because Jesus has come that you may have life, and have it to the full and furthermore God has said in Jeremiah 29:11 concerning your situation, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."