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CHAPTER ONE

THE SECRET IS OUT

The workings of the human heart are the profoundest mystery of the universe. One moment they make us despair of our kind, and the next we see in them the reflection of the divine image.¹

—Charles W. Chesnutt

 ONE OF THE FASTEST-GROWING ART FORMS TODAY IS called the “spoken word.” Throngs of people gather in clubs, schools, cafés, church auditoriums, stadiums, and theaters just to hear the poetic, pulsating rhyme spoken by artists who by virtue of their creativity and talent move their audiences to emotional highs and lows merely by what comes out of their mouths. Like painters creating moving masterpieces in vibrant colors, these artists “paint” on the canvas of the human soul.

Eons ago, with neither fanfare nor audience, the mighty Creator of the universe spoke. His utterance would constitute the first recorded words, “Let there be...” (See Genesis 1.) God thought, spoke, and the universe came into being.

The true power of the spoken word is beyond our

common understanding. It is a spiritual mystery—a hidden secret now being revealed to equip God’s people for an unprecedented era of empowerment and influence. The time has come for believers to rise up and walk in the knowledge and authority God has provided and commanded through His Word—the Word He spoke into us and created us to speak forth. While forces around us threaten our peace and stability, nothing can prevail against God’s spoken Word.

THE GREAT POWER OF SMALL THINGS

Everything in the universe begins with and revolves around two things: *words* and *thoughts*. These two elements form the creative substance that molds and shapes the destiny of humanity. Each of us becomes the person we are, chooses the direction we take, and accomplishes everything we do based on these two primary elements.

Everything in the universe begins with and revolves around two things: words and thoughts. Our thoughts, intentions, motivations, and aspirations—whether they be secretly pondered in the heart, openly declared as desires, or formally written as goals—mold and shape our personal universe into something that is either grand and beautiful or base and hideous. Whatever you harbor in the innermost corridors of your thought life will, sooner or later, reveal itself in the outer arena through your words

or actions. Whatever is hidden will eventually be brought to light. First Corinthians 4:5 tells us God “will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart” (ESV). Just as a seed is for a time hidden under the ground, it will eventually break through the surface and its true essence will be revealed.

Just as in every seed, there is life-giving power that resides in every spoken word. This principle illustrates how the spiritual law of incubation and manifestation works. Everything you see in the natural began as a spiritual seed—that is, as a thought.

The temporal realm has its roots in the spiritual. Grabbing hold of this profound spiritual truth will enable you to make critical connections that can transform your life. Once you understand that the spiritual realm is the “causal realm,” you will begin to grasp the massive power of your thoughts, ideas, words, and prayers—spiritual things that engineer, mold, and craft the current and future state of your temporal existence.

We are told in 2 Peter 1:3–4 that God, in His infinite wisdom, has already given us all things pertaining to life (the Wycliffe version says, “all things of his god-like virtue”) that we might partake of His divine nature. Included in this celestial equipping are divine thoughts and inspired words. As a spiritual being created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26), your spiritual genes hold the creative power to frame your personal world by the thoughts and words you think

and speak, which are divine tools given for your creative use. All you are, experience, and ultimately achieve can be traced back to how you have made use of these two simple, yet vastly powerful, tools—your words and thoughts.

ONE OF LIFE'S GREATEST MYSTERIES

The power of the spoken word is one of life's greatest mysteries. All that you will ever be or accomplish

All you are, experience, and ultimately achieve can be traced back to how you have made use of these two simple, yet vastly powerful, tools—your words and thoughts.

hinges on how you choose to govern what comes out of your mouth. By what you allow to occupy your mind and mouth, you can either bless your life to great heights of success or send it orbiting into realms of failure, sadness, and

discontentment. This is why Proverbs tells us, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7, AMP), and urges, “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life” (Prov. 4:23, NLT). Jesus followed suit by declaring, “For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart” (Matt. 12:34–35, NLT).

What occupies your mind determines what eventually

fills your mouth; your outer world showcases all that has dominated—and at times subjugated—your inner world. Because the law of cause and effect is continually at work, there is always an inner cause for every outer effect. Your outer world is a direct result of your inner world. Every circumstance in life is a result of a choice—and every choice is the result of a thought. All those things that fill your mind hold the keys to your reality. Your thoughts provide the fuel for your words, and your words provide the fuel for your world.

It is therefore imperative that you understand the nature of what you are saying. Are you aware of the true meaning of the things you are speaking out? We would do well to heed the advice of one ancient Stoic philosopher named Epictetus who once said: “First learn the meaning of what you say, and then speak.”

Hosea, the prophetic sage of old, remarked, “For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind” (Hosea 8:7, ESV). In other words, each one of us must take responsibility for what we experience in life. We are the sum total of every choice that we have ever made or let happen. If you do not like where you are, you are only one thought away from turning toward the life you desire.

If this is to happen, it is paramount that you become the master of your thoughts. Sift your thought life. Filter out anything that you do not want to show up in your future, and focus on what you truly desire. God wired

your thoughts to have power so you would be equipped to overcome every obstacle. He fashioned you to create, innovate, strategize, and succeed—and just to be sure, He put His own divine thoughts and nature within you. As God says in Jeremiah 31:33, “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts” (NLT).

Hook up your heart with the ultimate power source.

WHAT'S YOUR FREQUENCY?

The law of cause and effect also works with the law of attraction. Simply put, this means “like attracts like.” If thoughts are things and things are made up of substance, then the material manifested in our lives is attracted to us by our spiritual thoughts. In other words, inspired experiences are caused by inspired thoughts.

I know a woman who is brilliantly gifted. Over the years I have observed the great people who have come into her life and the great things that have happened to her, time and time again. But for absolutely no apparent reason, every success would only last a short while before ending dismally. It was quite a challenge to convince her that the problem was not with other people or external circumstances. After months of persistent coaching, she informed me one day with

great excitement that, finally, good people and circumstances had come to stay. The secret was simple. She changed the spirit of her thoughts and words. As long as she aligned her thoughts and speech with doubtful, negative beliefs, that is exactly what she experienced, but once she aligned herself with hopeful, optimistic beliefs, her world changed accordingly.

Your thoughts and words are transmitted like a short-wave radio signal. They send messages out on a specific frequency and are transmitted back to you manifested as an experience or occurrence in your life. Your thoughts create something like a magnetic field around you, while your words provide a kind of spiritual homing device that attract either positive people, things, and experiences or negative people, things, and experiences.

Therefore, you must learn to fill your mind with good, godly, and great thoughts. As we are told in Philippians 4:8, you must “fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise” (NLT). What you think has the power to literally transform your life.

It is essential that you become extremely vigilant about what enters your mind daily. What you hear affects how you think and what you believe. The prophet Isaiah had insight into how important it is to heed what you say, hear, and see when he declared:

He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly ...
who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed
and shuts his eyes from looking on evil,
he will dwell on the heights;
his place of defense will be the fortresses of rocks;
his bread will be given him; his water will be sure.
—Isaiah 33:15–16, ESV

If you want to have life-affirming thoughts—thoughts of success and prosperity—then fill your ears with words that will produce these things in your life. Eventually, if you hear something enough, over time it will form a belief, and that belief will produce a corresponding action. It is this hearing—and hearing again—that is the impetus of faith. As the apostle Paul said, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17, ESV). In other words, it comes from “hearing and hearing.” Make sure you are grounding your beliefs and basing your faith on God’s “rich life”—not some counterfeit, but the abundance of His kingdom—by filling your heart and mind with life-giving, biblical truth.

Jesus Christ, a kingdom-practitioner, knew the power of truth combined with the principle of faith. He knew that faith came by hearing. So, He spent hours teaching and dialoguing with His disciples. He taught His students success principles derived from spiritual laws in order to build their faith in their ability to make a difference in the world. He began the arduous task of transforming

the mind-sets of twelve outcasts and fishermen. He spoke many spiritual truths to them in order to stretch their spiritual paradigms of success and prosperity beyond the temporal, three-dimensional realm. He knew it would take constant exposure to the Light for the light to finally turn on in them.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Sometimes when concepts are difficult for you to grasp or comprehend, you simply need to say, “Let there be light!” The first recorded thing God said was, “Let there be light.” Light illuminates. What you really want is for your spirit and your mind to be illuminated—you want to obtain insight and wisdom. When it feels as if you are wandering in the dark and can’t figure out what to do, stop and command, “Let there be light!”

A minister friend was having difficulty paying the bills of her ministry. It had become an almost insurmountable task. When one bill was paid, there were several left unpaid. The bills kept coming without sufficient income to cover them, until one day she began uttering four simple words, “Let there be light.”

She stopped focusing on her difficulty and started focusing on the answer: God’s light. She let the light of His goodness fill her mind and, following her heavenly Father’s example, commanded that light be made manifest by the words of her mouth. The answer had always been there,

but it had been hidden from her conscious mind because her focus on the problem prohibited her from seeing the solution. In a way, when she finally saw the light, there was light. God revealed innovative ways for her to not only pay the bills but also to prosper. She now has a thriving ministry and a million-dollar business.

Four simple words opened her spirit to receive divine wisdom from God. These four simple words can help you, too. Don't hesitate to speak out in faith, "Let there be light!" Speak these words over perplexing situations and watch God work. Remember, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17). God wants you to have what is good and perfect. Did you get that? You don't just have to have good health; you can have perfect health. You don't have to settle for a good job; you can have a perfect job, or better still, the perfect business that not only pays the bills but also gives you enough left over to be a tremendous blessing to others. You don't have to settle for a good marriage; you can have the perfect marriage. You don't have to settle for a good life; you can have a perfect life. So go ahead; shout it from the rooftops, "Let there be light!" You will be delightfully surprised that perhaps what you have been looking for is right before your eyes. It was simply awaiting illumination.

Jesus wanted the light to come on for His disciples. To

teach complex spiritual principles He would use simple stories based on common subjects. Jesus would weave revolutionary spiritual truths into the fabric of each parable. After one famous allegory referring to how seed is sown in various soils, His disciples asked Him, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” He replied:

The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables.

—Matthew 13:10–13, NIV

Did you get that? As long as information remains a secret, hidden in obscurity, no one can prosper from it, no matter how powerful the secret or how mighty the person. But that person to whom it is made known, no matter who, will have access to abundance; to whom it is not revealed, even that which this person has shall be taken away.

This is a powerful passage of Scripture. Not only does Jesus tell a powerful parable here, but also, sandwiched between the initial telling of it in verses 1–9 and His explanation of its meaning in verses 18–23, Jesus takes a moment to clarify why He is using parables to teach in the first place. The rationale He offers for His method is as illuminating as the parable itself:

Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.”

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

—Matthew 13:13–17, NIV

The importance and power of understanding are not only the reasons for His method of teaching, but they are also the very point of the lesson itself. At the crux of it all is the divine power of revelation—truly seeing, or grasping, spiritual truth. When men “see the light” they will come to the knowledge of the truth and experience abundant life. John phrased it this way: “In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it” (John 1:4–5, NIV). John referred to Jesus as “the true light that gives light to every man” (v. 9, NIV). It is Jesus who not only gives us light

but also gives the ability to “see the light.” In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote, “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Cor. 4:6, NIV).

In the parable about the seed (truth or light) and the soil (our hearts), Jesus spoke in such a way as to reveal the secret to success and prosperity. He is speaking about understanding—about “possessing light.” Let’s look at how He explains the meaning further down in the chapter:

Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. . . . But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

—Matthew 13:18–19, 23, NIV

Jesus is talking about our ability to understand—He is addressing the issue of the state of a man’s mind. Out of our mind we produce a crop based on what we have sown in understanding—based on what we have understood. David cried out “to him who by understanding made the heavens” (Ps. 136:5, ESV) and “[gave] me understanding that

I may live” (Ps. 119:144, ESV). In Proverbs we read, “Understanding will guard you” (Prov. 2:11, ESV) and “Blessed is the one...who gets understanding” (Prov. 3:13, ESV).

Above all else, seek understanding. “Gird up the loins of your mind” (1 Pet. 1:13) by pursuing knowledge, wisdom, and truth—and out of that abundance your mouth will speak words that will frame your world. Make it a habit to examine what your thoughts are chasing after and what your words are gathering to you. Remember, the world within not only colors the world without, but it is also its blueprint. Be intentional in what you hear, how you think, and what you speak—for you are setting the stage for the reality you experience.

Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.

—John 12:35–36, ESV

UNLOCK THE MYSTERY

Everyone loves to be in on a secret. One of the worst things is feeling left out when it comes to being “in the know”—as if everyone is aware of something vitally important except for you. But worse than that is the feeling there are important things everyone should know but few do. The Bible calls these types of secrets *mysteries*. For most

people, life is exactly that, a mystery. But Jesus came to help us solve our mysteries. He came to give us knowledge of the truth.

The key to victory in Christ—and in this life—is the knowledge and wisdom that unlocks the mysteries of life. That is why God wants you to pursue wisdom and understanding above all else.

Get wisdom! Get understanding!
Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of
my mouth....
Wisdom is the principal thing;
Therefore get wisdom.
And in all your getting, get understanding.
—Proverbs 4:5, 7

Seek to know and understand how and why God has created you. This is one secret you can be in on! There is overcoming power in knowing it is God's desire for you to succeed and prosper, as well as knowing how He has designed you to create success and abundance in every sphere you influence.

When I say “abundance,” I am not talking about materialism or consumerism. What I am talking about is the fact that it is God's will for you to live without lack—to provide you with every possible thing you need to successfully fulfill your purpose and maximize your potential. This certainly includes material things, but more importantly it means

Spirit-inspired thoughts, declarations, and conversations; divinely appointed relationships, business opportunities, and challenges—and above all else, supernatural gifts and abilities as you acknowledge every good thing that is in you in Christ. (See Philemon 6.)

There is overcoming power in knowing it is God's desire for you to succeed and prosper, as well as knowing how He has designed you to create success and abundance in every sphere you influence.

I appreciate the story of Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's, who was raised by adoptive parents. As a child, Dave always imagined one day owning a hamburger restaurant, and on November 15, 1969, the first Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers

opened.² Dave Thomas personifies that if you can see it in your mind first, you can achieve it.

So, my friend, the secret is out. It is your time to consciously paint the canvas of your life with whatever you aspire to achieve. Fill your mind with majestic thoughts. Generate excitement and expectation with every word that proceeds from your mouth. I urge you to create a masterpiece out of your life. Dare to imagine!