

Prayer

Why Does Speaking Words Change Reality?

Mako A. Nagasawa



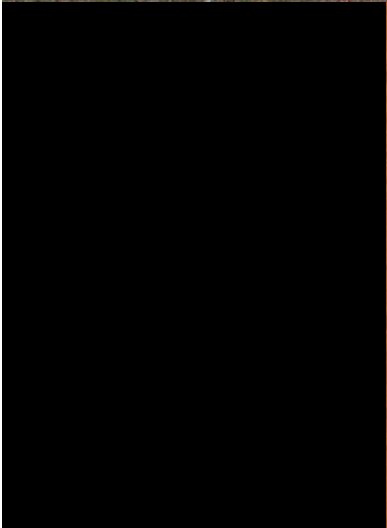
Playing at Royalty, Age 4



Playing at Royalty, Age 7



Playing at Harry Potter, Age 11





Framework:

God Speaks Life into Being

- “Let there be...”
- Ten declarations in Genesis 1:1 – 2:3



Framework: God Makes Us in His Image

- “Name the animals” (Gen.2:19)

God's Four Basic Responses

1. "Yes"
2. "Not yet"
3. "I have something better in mind"
4. "I'm already doing that, but it also depends on someone else"

“Yes”

- ‘If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it’ (John 14:14)
- ‘Whatever you ask of the Father in my name He may give to you’ (John 15:16)
- ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in my name, he will give it to you’ (John 16:23).

“Not Yet”

- ‘⁷ Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself! ⁸ Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. ⁹ And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.’ (2 Cor.12:7 – 10)

“I Have Something Better in Mind”

- ‘⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to him and said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.’ ⁴¹ But the Lord answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; ⁴² but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.’ (Luke 10:40 – 42)

“I’m Already Doing That, But It Depends on Someone Else”

- Paul says, ‘*The Spirit* sends me, and tells me I will suffer.’
 - ‘²² And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God..’ (Acts 20:22 – 24)
- Other Christians tell Paul *through the Spirit*, ‘Don’t go!’
 - ‘^{21:4} After looking up the disciples, we stayed there seven days; and they kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem..’ (Acts 21:4)
- Paul says, ‘I will go!’
 - ‘^{21:13} Then Paul answered, ‘What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.’ ¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, ‘The will of the Lord be done!’ (Acts 21:13 – 14)