

## AND SO IT IS

Week #4 of the 5-Week Series, "Back to School"

Oct. 7, 2020

Rev. Richard Rogers

**Rev. Richard Rogers:** Hello! I'm Richard Rogers, and I want to welcome you tonight to Unity of Phoenix Spiritual Center: to our Wednesday night service. And I'm so glad you're a part of this ministry! So glad that you're able to be here – whether you're local, whether you're from throughout the country – we are glad that you are a part of this experience.

Couple announcements I want to call your attention to. The first one is our "Circles of Gratitude." You know, for over 20 years – almost 25, almost 30 years! – we've been doing our ... Every fall we do our "Circles of Gratitude." It's the 40 days before Thanksgiving. This year we're going to have a booklet; it's available online. You can also sign up to be part of our small Circle Groups. You can either do that through Zoom, or we are going to be having some outside here on the campus. So if you're interested in being part of a small group as we go through these 40 days of gratitude, please go online and sign up at [unityphx.org](http://unityphx.org).

Also, we have many classes also available on Zoom. And we're now doing live services on Sunday morning, 9 o'clock. We're doing them outside in the Petersen Grove and the grass area. And also, Wednesday nights are still just online. So we're not sure when we're going to open up Wednesday again for people, but right now it's just online. And we will give you plenty of notice, because we know you want to be back here at the Wednesday night services as soon as it re-opens. Both the services – Sunday and Wednesday, of course – are available online: at 9 o'clock Sunday morning and at seven o'clock Wednesday.

Alright. Are you ready for today? I want you to close your eyes as we move into this time of meditation.

### MEDITATION:

I want you to take a deep breath. And I want you to feel the presence of God that is right here, right now. That there is only one presence and one power at work in your life: God, the good. And I want you to feel the full power of God that's at work in your life. That the full power of God is available to you. The infinite power of God is available to you. That God in you is all good. All powerful. All creative. All loving. All providing. God in you makes all things possible!

See, as we open our minds and our hearts and our souls in this time of meditation, we actually tap into that infinite presence and power of God. We tap into all that God is. That there is no situation – there's no need, there's no condition – where God in you isn't more powerful. There is no place in your life where you cannot call forth the fullness of God *right where you are* and experience an infinite blessing.

Take another deep breath. Feel God right there. Feel the presence of God right where you are. That there is an infinite amount of good – there is an infinite amount of God – at the core of who you are. The center of you is pure Spirit, pure God. And we are learning to call it forth. We are learning to express it in greater and greater ways. We are willing to claim the good, claim the God, claim the blessings that we desire most. You are not separate from God; you are not separate from the good that you seek. You are not separate from the healing or transformation or miracle in your life. That within your soul is all God – all good – waiting to be called forth. So today we call it forth. We dwell in that silent place that energizes us. That heals us. That blesses us. In this quiet place, we recommit to the power of God in us.

Thank you, God, for all the good that this day brings me. For all the blessings that I am calling forth into manifest form. For the abundance that is mine by divine birthright. Thank you, God; thank you, God; thank you, God! And so it is. Amen.

**SONG:**

***Rusty Ferracane: "Everybody Says Don't!" (accompanied by Craig Bohmler on the piano)***

Everybody says don't  
Everybody says don't  
Everybody says don't; it isn't right  
Don't; it isn't nice

Everybody says don't  
Everybody says don't  
Everybody says don't walk on the grass  
Don't disturb the peace

Don't skate on the ice  
Well I say do; I say,  
Walk on the grass it was meant to feel  
I say sail; tilt at the windmill  
And if you fail, you fail!

Everybody says don't  
Everybody says don't  
Everybody says don't get out of line  
When they say that then, you know that's a sign  
Nine times out of ten  
That you are doing just fine

Make just a ripple; come on be brave  
This time a ripple; next time a wave  
Sometimes you have to start small,  
Climbing the tiniest wall  
Maybe you're going to fall  
But it's better than not starting at all!

Everybody says no  
Everybody says stop  
Everybody says musn't rock the boat  
Musn't touch a thing

Everybody says don't  
Everybody says wait  
Everybody says can't fight city-hall  
Can't upset the cart  
Can't laugh at the king!

Well I say try,  
I say,  
Laugh at the king or he'll make you cry

Lose your poise  
Fall if you have to, but go and make a noise!

Everybody says don't  
Everybody says can't  
Everybody says wait around for miracles  
That's the way the world is made  
I insist on miracles  
If you do them,  
Miracles might come true,  
Then I say don't...  
Don't be afraid!

*[Light applause]*

## MESSAGE

**Rev. Richard Rogers:** Fabulous! Rusty; Craig – thank you, thank you, gentlemen! As always, you bless us in so many ways! Thank you for being a part of this Wednesday night and all the ways that you just bless our ministry. We are so blessed by each of you. So thank you so much!

Alright; you ready for tonight? Okay, so here's my question: *[pounds podium]* I'm ready! So here's my question: Do you believe in magic words? And you think, you know, as an adult – as a mature, as an educated individual – do I really believe in magic words?

Because, for some of us, we remember as kids reading stories. If you go back into mythology, there's mythological stories of magic words. And those magic words – like “Abracadabra” – we could speak magic words, and miracles would happen. Blessings would happen. We could turn lead into gold. No matter what the story was, there's this understanding deep within our consciousness that words have power. That words are almost magical. That words have the power to form and shape substance.

And that's where I want to begin tonight. Do you really believe that your words have the power to form and shape and create your life? And do you believe that every word you speak has the power of forming and shaping and creating your life?

Have you ever noticed yourself saying something, and you go, “*Oh, my gosh; I hope that doesn't come out! Like, I don't want to 'bless' myself with that! What I just said – cancel, cancel, cancel!!! I do not want to create that in my reality!*”

Over and over again, what I want us to see: As spiritual beings, we have to become very responsible for the words that come out of our mouth. And today what I want to do is slow that down, and I want to talk about why. Why is that? Why and how do our words have power? If they have power, how do we use that power for the greatest way to create our life?

You know, this series that I've been doing – called “Back to School” – I wanted to go back to those fundamental Unity understandings. Those ideas that really are the bedrock of what we teach each and every week. And so I began a series based on Emilie Cady's book, *Lessons in Truth*. Today I want to focus on Chapter 5; it's called “Affirmations.” The power of words.

And affirmations – or affirmative prayer – is one of Unity's fundamental beliefs. You know, that we believe that prayer is different than the way that most of us were taught to pray. Most of us were taught to pray by – at some level – begging or beseeching “Big Daddy God” to give us our needs. And the way that most of us were taught – either indirectly or directly – to pray is: The more you sounded like a victim, the more God would have mercy on you. The more God would just give you your blessing.

So most of us learned to pray as such a victim. Like, from such a place of woundedness. You know, we'd pray: "Pleeeeee, God! Pleeeeee, God!" You know, we'd get down on our knees. We'd wail; we'd bash our chests. And we'd act real pathetic. And the idea: We thought, if we could just be pathetic enough, the Universe would grant our desires. That Spirit would give us what we want.

So many of us still pray – when push comes to shove – we go to our victim place, and we pray from our victim place. And what I want you to know is that, in Unity, we believe that life is consciousness. That when I'm acting and speaking from my victim place, that I tend to create more and more opportunities to experience that victim consciousness.

And, in Unity, that's not what we talk about. We talk about praying about a place of affirmation. We talk about praying from a place of – that it's the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. That we're not having to beseech God or to beg or to sound sad enough that God grants us our desires. We're actually affirming the spiritual truth and aligning with all the good that God is.

So, I want to go to Emilie Cady's work. Paragraph #3 says this: *"The hunger that we feel is but the prompting of the Divine within us, which longs with an infinite longing to fill us. It is but one side of the law and supply, the other side of which is unchangeably, unfailingly, the promise: 'Whatever you ask for in prayer, believing that you will receive it, it shall be done unto you.' (Mark 11) The supply is always equal to the demand, but there first must be a demand before the supply is of use."*

So, see: This is fundamental Unity! Fundamental Unity says that we live in an infinite Universe. That literally everything is available to us! But that that infinite Universe actually only blesses us to the degree that we make an acknowledgement of a request. That we make an acknowledgement of the prompting of a demand. And that the way that we make that demand is actually through the power of our words!

See, last week we focused on thoughts. And thoughts are the first level of creation. Through thought, we can actually think and conceive and imagine our greatest life. And then the next level of creation is when you speak those words into the Universe. When you speak those words. So the thoughts are held in mind, and then you speak them into a reality. And so, when we make a demand – when we make an acknowledgement, when we proclaim the spiritual truth of what we desire – we actually speak it into existence.

Like, when we go back a ways into Genesis, all the way back to the beginning of the Bible, and read, *"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."* Like, God had an idea; it was an idea for light. In a Universe that was without form, there was this idea of light. And God spoke, and there was light!

See, what I want you to see is that image: that thought, first, has to come into our consciousness. There has to be a thought of love or joy or abundance. First comes the thought, and then we speak it into existence. We speak into reality.

Paragraph #4 says this: *"There is, attainable by us, a place where we can see that our doing can cease, because we realize that Spirit is the fulfillment of all of our desires. We simply get still and know that all things whatsoever we desire are already ours. This knowing – this recognizing – has the power to bring the invisible God (or good) – the utmost substance of all things – forth into visible form."*

So what I want you to see here, right? So you have an idea for a bigger life. You have an idea for greater joy, peace, abundance. Maybe a greater job. Maybe greater health. You have an idea. But that idea needs to be spoken into manifest form. You have to speak it in. Before you do any ... Before you take any steps, before you do any work. Before you get out the want ads or you Google anything, what I want you to do is actually speak that reality – that desire, that demand – into manifest form through the power of your words.

See, our words actually begin to form and shape the infinite. Jesus said, *“Let your answer be, ‘Yes; Yes!’ or ‘No; No!’ For anything else makes God crazy.”* Ah, that’s a bit of a paraphrase. Anything else comes of evil, right?

So the idea is that, when we speak our words into manifestation, what I want you to see is that they are like a laser. Out of the infinite possibility for your life – for your work – our words speak reality into form. **Out of the infinite possibilities, your words claim the life that you desire.** You have to have the thought, then you speak the word.

Paragraph #13, #18 and #22. Cady says, *“First: God is life, love, intelligence, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence.” “Second: I am a child or a manifestation of God, and in every moment, life, love, wisdom, power flow through me. I am one with God and I am governed by spiritual law.” “Third: I am Spirit, perfect, whole, harmonious. Nothing can hurt me. Nothing can make me sick or afraid, for the Spirit is God, and God in me cannot be hurt or harmed or afraid. I manifest from my real Self through my body.” “Fourth: God works in me to do the will and the work of whatever He wishes for me, and He cannot fail.”*

See, first is the spiritual idea. First is God, is infinite potential. Second: we are the manifestations of that! And then as we speak our word – as we claim the good that we desire – that we begin to form. Out of the infinite possibilities, we begin to create our reality.

So the question that I have for you today is: What are you speaking in reality? Right? And it’s like: How many times a day are you saying, *“My back hurts”*? Or how many times a day are you saying that *“Our government doesn’t work”*? Or how many times a day do you say, *“I never have enough”*? Or how many times do you say, *“This is killing me”*?

Like, what I want you to begin to see is that – out of the infinite possibilities – your word is actually forming and shaping the quality of your life. And if you don’t like what you’re looking at right now in your life, I’m going to challenge you today to change your words. To change what you’re decreeing. To change what you’re claiming. See, we know that God is. *“I AM.”* And then our words actually are an expression of that spiritual truth.

But words alone are not enough. And this is where faith comes in. You know, we’ve been studying – going back to the old-time Unity people. And those old-time Unity people, man, they had some faith! They were healing people; they were having miracles. Life was changing. They were blessed! And it’s because they had the faith!

And what I want you to see is your faith is the belief that all things are possible. And faith actually supercharges your words into manifest form. Because every one of us can think of, maybe, an affirmation we did: *“I am rich”* or, you know, *“I am experiencing the love of my life.”* Or whatever your affirmation was. And you simply did not believe it. So that, every time you said it, there was an internal part of you that said, *“That’s a lie. That’s not true! That’s just a lie; I don’t believe that! I’m never going to experience that. I believe in that much good.”*

And what I want you to see is that faith – the faith in the opposite of what you want – actually keeps you from having it! Our faith is a requirement to live the life that we desire. It’s a requirement to live a life that is that good. So we actually have to move our faith and align our faith with our words. So when our faith and our words are in harmonious expression of spiritual truth, then truly all things are possible.

So today, if we’re going to deeper into your words – if we’re going to really look at the words that you’re speaking over and over and over again – what do you really have faith in? Do you have faith in what you want? Do you have faith in what you desire? Do you have faith in God?

Because, as we've talked about, there's really two requirements. First, you have to believe it's possible; second, you have to believe it's possible for you.

If you believe that the life that you desire is possible, that's the first step! But you also have to believe that it's possible for you. And that's what faith is! Hebrews 11:1: *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not yet seen."* Our words give focus to our faith. And we have to believe; we have to believe!

Emily Cady said this: *"When we speak the word, we speak it confidently, we affirm. But we have nothing to do with the 'establishing' of the word or bringing it to pass. 'Thou shalt decree a thing, and it will be established unto thee (from Job 22:28). So if you decree or affirm unwaveringly, steadfastly, we hold God to His utter laws, to His promises, and that they will be fulfilled."* They will be fulfilled!

See, this is where I want you to see that, for many of us, we need to take our game up a notch. Like, maybe we're doing our affirmations, but we're not really believing in them. You know, we're moving our life forward, but we're not really committed to it. We're kind of going through the motions, and we're not living at the level of good that we desire!

Today, I'm going to challenge you to get your words aligned with your desire. That you be speaking the truth of the life that you want to be living: with the level of joy, peace and abundance that you want to be living. The level of health and wholeness that you want to be expressing. I want you to get your words right! I want you to get them accurately proclaiming the life that you want! But then I want you to take all the faith that you have, and I want you to imagine that that faith just supercharges those words as they go out into the Universe. And they do not come back to you void, but they come back to you with all the good that God has for us!

Our words have to be in alignment with our faith! When our words don't match our faith, we don't create the next level of our good. Our words have to be the proclaimer of our faith. That our words and our faith have to align to create the next level of your life.

Paragraph #31: the last paragraph of the chapter. *"They who claim their birthright, and thus calmly affirming their oneness with God, will know how free they can be from human planning and effort, after they called into operation this marvelous power of affirmation."*

So here we go. I want you to get clear about what it is that you really want in your life. And I want you to gather all the faith that you have. I want you to join with, maybe, other people, and to actually borrow their faith. But I want you to begin to create this circle – if you will – of faith. And then I want you to speak your words with as much power and authority and mastery that you can manage. And I want you to speak your words thoroughly, powerfully, out loud to the Universe, and watch your world begin to change.

You want to be debt free? Then claim it. *"I am debt free!"* You want to be healthy? *"I am healthy and whole."* You want to have new opportunities? Then claim it! Whatever your desire, gather up all the faith that you can muster, and speak those words into the Universe, know that it's the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. It's God's desire that you be wildly blessed! Speak your words; gather your faith to move in a new direction. You are absolutely the center of your Universe. And God will create, through you, more than you could ever imagine.

And our work today is to gather our faith, speak the word, and manifest the glory of God here and now.

Will you pray with me?

I invite you to open your mind, your heart, your soul to the activity of God. Take a deep breath. And I want you to gather your faith. I want you to believe. I want you to believe in possibilities. I want you to

believe in the Infinite. I want you to believe in God. And I want you to believe that it's the Father's good pleasure to give it to you: whatever it is you desire. To believe, not only it's possible, but it's possible for you. And then I want you to speak it with a loud, clear, solid, mature voice, knowing that – as you decree a thing – it will be established unto you. As you speak your greatest desires out into the Universe, those desires will come back to you and bless you 10-, 100-, 1,000-fold. And so it is. Amen.

### **COLLECTION**

Alright, friends. Let's hold together our offering; we're going to say together: *"Divine love, through me, blesses and multiplies all that I give and all that I receive."* Together: *"Divine love, through me, blesses and multiplies all that I give and all that I receive."* Let's say it one more time: *"Divine love, through me, blesses and multiplies all that I give and all that I receive."* And so it is.

### **CLOSING**

God bless you, friends! Have a great week! I want you to really enjoy this week! I want you to enjoy the fact that you get to gather all your faith, and speak it into your new reality. God bless you, friend; have a great time!

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