



The Power of a Good Report

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All of us encounter individuals who feel it is their responsibility to focus on the negative aspects of just about everything. We very seldom see them smiling unless it relates to some negative aspect of someone else or the school. Listen to them for any period of time and you will notice how much they are preoccupied with pointing out the negative aspects of life, their job, the hours they put in, the amount of work they are asked to do, lack of facilities and resources, and poor pay. Every opportunity they have is used to point out the negative side of any issue. Very seldom do they provide a good report about anything and most of their conversations focus around complaining and making judgmental remarks; regardless of the positive comments and reports of others, they somehow want to hang on to their negative feelings for as long as possible.

A Negative Report Influences Others

There is something about a negative personality and a negative report that affects the listener, as well as the one doing the talking. You could be having a great day until the negative person enters your space and the peace and confidence you had are lost.

For those who have been schooled in the power of their words, and the importance of speaking the Word of God over negative situations, the person who is doing the negative reporting fails to realize they immediately lose credibility in the eyes of the person being reported to (see Insights 1-5). Furthermore, very few people want to be around those who come across as negative.

I have found that nothing squelches negativism faster than accenting the positive or being optimistic. For example, Susie, as she enters the classroom says, "Losing our jeans day stinks!" One might respond, "I'm sorry you feel that way. I'm so thankful for all the days that we can wear jeans."

When a person is negative, it tells people around them that they really aren't thinking. Many times those listening to the negativism don't respond because they don't

want to be pulled down to this level of behavior, so they say nothing. However, when nothing is said, the assumption is that those who are listening are in agreement with the report.

Usually those who are negative are also selfish – looking out for their own gain; arrogant – don't have any thought on how what they say affects others; rude – treat others with little respect; or insensitive – having little empathy for others and what they are experiencing.

Called to be Positive and to give a Good Report

When we come in contact with situations or circumstances in which we are asked to give a report about ourselves, students, parents, the school or the administration, we are called to be positive and to give a good report. In fact, we are called to give a good report every day in each circumstance that we encounter. Proverbs 15:28-30 says:

A good man thinks before he speaks; the evil man pours out his evil works without a thought, for the Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the righteous. Pleasant sites in good reports give happiness and wealth.

Could it possibly be that the reason some individuals are unhappy and sickly is because of the types of reports that they have been giving? Let's say an individual comes up to you and says, "How is your teaching going?" If you began at that point to tell them all of your troubles and all of your challenges, all of your heart aches and all of your headaches, and your overworked hours, lack of cooperation from students or administration and other staff, you are not giving a good report.

Good Reports Release the Power of God

When you speak a good report, it releases the power of God. In Matthew 18:18 – 20, you are given the power to bind on earth and too loose on earth. An evil report and negativism bind and stop the forces of life.

Proverbs 4:23 says that out of the belly of man flows the issues of life. In other words, out of a person comes the life giving forces.

Pastor Billy Joe Daugherty put it this way: "When a good report is given, those forces are released. Someone calls you and asks, 'How's it going today?' Just say, 'The Lord's blessing me today.' You know what you just did? You just loosed the power of God to work in your behalf. . . Set in motion a law of the Word of God that releases the power of God to operate in your behalf."

In other words, when you give a good report about a situation or a circumstance or a person, you are releasing the power of God on their behalf. However, if you release a bad report, you can adversely affect prayers being answered on behalf of that person or that situation.

When someone asked the question, "How is it going in your class?" You can believe what the circumstances say and report the circumstances or you can say what you believe for your class or for the situation.

Pastor Billy Joe provides some important guidance in responding to a negative report. The key in giving a good report is, "We must speak the eternal rather than the temporal." The temporal are the situations and circumstances that we see that are subject to change. When we look at the circumstances and speak it as they are, we provide an avenue for the enemy to cause things to look bad, cause people to look bad, and cause circumstances to look terrible. Then if we agree and acknowledge the report in the temporal realm, we cause people to join in and agree with us."

Actually, it is very easy to give a good report and to be positive. When an individual comes to you and asks you a question even if the circumstances do not look the best, you can release your faith by saying to that person: "I believe that God is working in this situation or in this circumstance." Many times people find that the circumstances are so overwhelming that they engulf their own confessions and end up saying, "It just won't work," and sure enough, it never does.

Giving a Good Report is not Covering Up

The best way to counter a negative report is to speak the word. Simply ask yourself, "What does the word say in that situation?" One of the best examples of a good report concerns the 12 spies that were sent into Canaan. Two of them came back with a good report; they saw the same giants; they saw the same circumstances, but yet they believed what God had promised.

We know that God has given to Victory Christian School a spirit of unity, peace, and love, and we know that God's word says that no weapon formed against the school or the staff that work within the school will prosper. Even though there may be a staff person who is going through a disciplinary situation and someone asks, "How is so-and-so doing?" We can say, "Praise God, they are growing in learning." If it is apparent that

a job is not getting done, we can say, "Thank God that He has supplied the wherewithal to get the job accomplished."

When you refuse to give a bad report or to come in agreement with a bad report about a colleague, about a student, a parent, circumstance, the school, the administration, the pastor, or the church, the glory of God will rest upon you. This was evident with Stephen, who, while being stoned, gave the good report; as a result the glory of God shown upon him.

A Good Report Changes Things

When two or three teachers are together discussing an issue and you are committed to a good report, that very report can change the tide of everyone's thinking; plus it activates the power of God to work to change the situation.

We can choose to believe the circumstances or we can choose to believe and agree with what God says in His Word. God said that we can have those things that we say and expect them to come to pass if we believe it in our hearts. Thus, if someone sends me an email saying, "Dr. Demuth, did you know that there was discontent amongst the elementary school teachers?" My response to them would be, "God is doing exceedingly above and beyond that which we are able to hope or to even expect."

When we respond in this manner, it reveals to those individuals that we have not based our evaluation on the situation, but upon God's Word. The same would be true when someone says, "Dr. Demuth, did you know that your teachers are confused?" I can respond, "I know that God has not given them a spirit of confusion, but peace and a sound mind and that everything is done decently and in order." Then, I must release my faith and be open to the Spirit of God to help me identify and deal with whatever it was that produced the perception of confusion.

Good Reports Precede Inheritance

Giving the good report allowed Joshua and Caleb into the Promised Land; that's exactly what happens when we fight against negative reports - we receive the inheritance of the blessing of God upon our life.

Whenever you feel like giving a bad report or being negative about your class or your situation, remember that it's the lack of knowledge of the revelation of God's word that activates a bad report. Rather, we can give a good report since we understand and believe that God wants us to have a blessed class and school.

Purpose to be a reporter of good.

(Freely adapted from Billy Joe Daugherty's sermon, "Giving a Good Report.")