

The POWER of God's Word – "POWER Paper"

The other day, I picked up a new magazine with pretty flowers ALL OVER it, and quickly thumbed through it. My thumbs stopped on this page!



I was instantly transported back to Jones Hall at University of Puget Sound in my communications class! The class in which I learned about “glittering generalities!” The term probably stuck because it’s alliterative and sounds pretty!! 😊

A glittering generality is a vague, popular statement that is emotional and positive but isn't really informative and doesn't really have much substance. Glittering generalities are extremely common in advertising and politics. Like Franklin Roosevelt's “Happy Days are Here Again!” In reality, history would tell us differently. Glittering generalities ask for approval without much reason.

Think about Coca-Cola “Things Go Better with Coke.” Do they? After a long morning of FOCUS, that might be true! In a long car trip with kids, it would just mean craziness! My kids never went better with Coke!

So POWER PAPER. Wall paper might appeal to our decorating senses and might even give us a sense of power in certain colors or patterns, but it doesn't really have power. It's paper. On a wall!

So, what kind of paper does have power? If we ask that question in a Sunday school class, a bunch of hands would fly up and kids would shout, “God's paper!” And that's true. The written Word of God has power when it's plastered on the walls of our hearts!

I think of some of the earliest verses God pasted on my heart. Verses that are not glittering generalities. Fear has always played a big role in my life. So, one of the

earliest verses to cover my heart (with King James flair) was Isaiah 41:10, “Fear thou not, for I am with thee, be not dismayed, for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee, Yea, I will uphold thee with my righteous right hand.” And a prayer verse, Phil. 4:6-7 from more modern NIV paper, covered another room in my heart, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God, and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

How about when I wonder if something can be accomplished that seems impossible. Phil. 4:13 jumps into my mind, “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” (What about when I wonder how much God can do? 2 Corinthians 9:8 “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency, in all things, at all times, you may abound in every good work.”) Tapping the power that God gives us within, how about Ephesians 3:20-21? (say).

That is God’s Word on the walls of our hearts that gives us life. In season and out of season! For all the challenges we *will* face – not if, but when – and the challenges that beloveds in our lives *will* face.

Because of the power of God’s Word, God has directed me personally over many paths, over many years, and in some very special ministry callings, thankfully with His Word papering my heart.

And there is now this very present and precious calling as Women’s Ministry Director here at Northeast Presbyterian Church. In my own heart, I am weak, but God’s Word sealed upon my heart is strong. Ministry belongs to our God and He directs every one of us to be in Him and to fulfill His callings. (Hold up Bible) POWER Paper, yes!! In this calling, our united prayer is that the walls of our hearts will become ever increasingly papered by His Word, united in His strength, and in the fellowship that spurs us on to love and good deeds. And we pray that His power will cover our hearts for His good purposes and callings.

Now, as she comes to share the POWER of God’s Word, please join me in praying for Ashley.

Maria Currey – March 28, 2019 FOCUS Devotion