



### **HOME RUN Devotional #17- MISSPOKEN WORDS**

**By Pastor Myron D. Atkinson**

We all make mistakes but when we are younger we tend to make more of them. It's important to learn from the mistakes we make. Years ago I went to pastor a small church. It was built with a lot of hard work, sweat, and sacrifice by a passionate, anointed pastor and some very dedicated laymen during some difficult days. Even though the building was not huge, it could only seat about 50, when it was a new church the place was bursting at the seams and people walked from all around to come and worship. When I arrived, it was not that church. The years had taken its toll on the building and the passion was gone. The church was down to 3 members. That's small, but I had a lot of energy and great vision. With a lot of sweat and volunteer help from the few within and others that came in to assist, we set to work making renovations and improvements. It was overwhelming to me, and I felt the building was consuming my time, rather than the people I needed to reach. That's when I opened my mouth and said, "The best thing that could happen to this church is if it burned down." I wasn't serious, but we would fix one thing only to have something else break. People heard my comment and it offended them. Why? Because of the sacrifice that they and others had made for that church. I apologized, but it was too late. Then, the comment was made that "nothing warmed their heart more than seeing an old empty church in a pasture because people had enough respect for the building to leave it there." I understand now why it was said, but thought (thankfully I kept my mouth shut) that the old empty church grieved the heart of God. I believe that for the person who made the comment the building represented team work and sacrifice. I agree, but it can also represent, in some cases, a lost vision for our purpose.

What's the point to this story? **1. Think twice before you speak, because you can't take your words back. Proverbs 17:28 (NLT) Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent. 2. People are why Jesus came, and we can't afford to forget the purpose or lose the vision.** Without a vision people are lost! **John 3:16 (NLT) "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."**

**Question for today:** Who have you opened your mouth to and said something offensive that you need to go apologize to?

**Verses to look up:** Romans 12:1-2, Luke 19:10, James 3:5-6

**Prayer for this week:** Dear Jesus, Thank you for a new day, a day that I can worship you, love you, and serve you! Thank you for helping me to win dependence upon you. Help me every day to take time to realize that it ALL begins and ends with you.

Thank you for helping me to "win within" by being a person of integrity. Help me to regularly examine myself and seek Your forgiveness for sin. Help me to realize that life is short and eternity is forever so that I will walk in obedience to you, letting go of all else that consumes me except for You.

Thank you for helping me to "win with others" by seeing them the way that You see them. Help me to love people and use things rather than use people and love things. Use me this day to influence someone for you.

Help me to continue to pray and believe for breakthroughs even when I don't see them. Thank you for the breakthroughs that have happened in my life and my church. May I be the person You want me to be and may our church be the church You want us to be. Let change begin in my heart and flow over to my home, my church, and my community! Amen