

GOSPEL PEARLS

Empty words

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Jesus said to his disciples: "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere,

while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs. (Mark 16: 15-20)

Jesus' teaching includes both His deeds and words. Likewise, the path of conversion for every disciple involves both actions and words, flowing from the mind to the heart, that is, from our intellect to our will. So have we, who sometimes feel so good about preaching to others, transformed our words into sincere love for God, or do we allow them be just empty words?