

The Power Of 'Nevertheless'

In the English vocabulary, there are a handful of words that can change the entire context of a sentence, a conversation, even the outcome of an entire situation.

In our text today, a single word has changed, in a multitude of ways, entire dialogues, entire situations, and even an entire world, simply **by the power of one simple word: NEVERTHELESS**

Definition

- **In the Old Testament**, the original Hebrew means, strangely enough, “a ceasing, an end, a finality”
- **In the New Testament Greek**, in Luke’s writing, the word “*nevertheless*” is used: “after negative sentences”, and “serves to mark a transition to something new”.
- **In Mark’s writing**, however, “**NEVERTHELESS**” is used as “an opposition to concession”

This simply means that, although the speaker does not want to yield, or concede, to circumstances, ***they have submitted their own will through the power of ‘nevertheless’.***

- Finally, from **the American Heritage Dictionary**, in today’s English grammar, the word simply means, “***In spite of all that...***”

What I want to do today is point out to us, both as individuals, and as a church body, **the power and strength that lies in a simple word: NEVERTHELESS.**

From a positive to a negative - Numbers 13:23-33 - NKJV

²³ Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. *They also brought* some of the pomegranates and figs.

²⁴ The place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the men of Israel cut down there.

²⁵ And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.

²⁶ Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

²⁷ Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit.

²⁸ **Nevertheless** the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.

²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.”

³⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we.”

³² And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature.

³³ There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

In our story in Num. 13, “nevertheless” changes a positive to a negative.

Follow the story of the 12 spies, and you’ll discover that, to a man, every one of them experienced the wonder of Canaan.

- **It wasn’t just Joshua and Caleb that pulled down a bunch of grapes.**
- **It wasn’t just Joshua and Caleb that ate the fruit of the land ‘til juice was dripping from their chin.**

However, *in 10 of the spies*, **there was a “nevertheless”** that changed the entire picture.

- They **witnessed** God's Promises, but **couldn't trust His protection**.
- **God did not** lead them to this point just to leave them wishing, "If only".

But 85% of the spies used **THE POWER OF 'NEVERTHELESS'** to change a **positive "we saw" into a negative "we can't"**.

- Their attitude was "Yes, there's plenty of promise in the land that we spied out, but in spite of all that..."

It was this **"Nevertheless"** that became **"an end, a ceasing, a finality"**, **because it stopped what GOD wanted to do for Israel.** **HOW ABOUT US?????**

From a negative to a positive - Luke 5:4-6- NKJV

⁴ When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; **nevertheless** at Your word I will let down the net."

⁶ And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

Someone once said that it takes both negative and positive to start a vehicle.

That may be so, but **give me a positive charge** any day of the week!

In Luke's recording of the miracle of the fishes, we experience **THE POWER OF 'NEVERTHELESS'** changing a negative to a positive.

Simon Peter really didn't want to throw his nets out again.

- He'd just spent the morning cleaning them. (See vs. 2)
- He was a fisherman by trade, and **knew the waters**.
- His own expertise told him there was **no reason to try again**.

And he even went so far as to inform the Lord that **"We've already tried..."**

However, Simon used **THE POWER OF 'NEVERTHELESS'** to change *a negative to a positive*.

You see, Simon had tasted futility, **but trusted in the faithfulness of the Master**.

- Once again, **THE POWER OF 'NEVERTHELESS'** had worked its magic:
- **“Lord, we’ve** worked these waters all night long and haven’t caught the first thing...**but in spite of all that...”**

It was this **“*Nevertheless*”** that, in the **Greek** form, **“served to mark a transition to something new”**

- It was here that **Jesus called His disciples** to become **“fishers of men”**.

From the carnal to the spiritual - Mark 14:35-39 - NKJV

³⁵ He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. ³⁶ And He said, “Abba, Father, all things *are* possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; **nevertheless**, not what I will, but what You *will*.”

³⁷ Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. **The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.”**

³⁹ Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words.

Finally, the story that we’ve read in **Mark 14** tells us how **THE POWER OF 'NEVERTHELESS'** was able to **change an entire world**:

You see, **Jesus Christ was *GOD wrapped in humanity***.

- **He knew what awaited Him** in the remaining hours of His life on this earth, and **His human nature did not want to accept it!**
- **He understood the pain, the emptiness, the agony that faced Him as He knelt in that garden.**
- I know scripture tells us **“*for the joy that was set before Him, [he] endured the cross”*** (Heb. 12:2)

However, there was **an internal crucifixion** He had to go through ***in that garden*** before **He ever allowed Judas** to meet Him with a kiss.

- His human nature **did not** want to go through the agony of a **Roman crucifixion**.
- His human nature **did not** want to suffer **the loss of his friends** when He needed them the most.
- His human nature sought **any other means**---ANY OTHER---to accomplish **the will of the Eternal Father**.

Because of THE POWER OF '**NEVERTHELESS**', you and I enjoy **the Presence** of a Holy God.

Because of THE POWER OF '**NEVERTHELESS**', you and I have **come face-to-face with Amazing Grace!**

Jesus Christ **wept bitter tears of opposition** to what the world truly needed.

- His prayer became "Father, **my humanity desires** any possible way other than this way...**yet in spite of what I want...**"
- And through THE POWER OF '**NEVERTHELESS**', you and I ***can taste of the Grace and Mercy of a Savior that surrendered His own will***.

Conclusion

THE POWER OF '**NEVERTHELESS**' has the ability to change everything:

- It changed a dialogue, a situation, and ultimately, an entire world, **from a positive into a negative** by becoming a finality.
- It changed a dialogue, a situation, and an entire world, **from a negative into a positive** by becoming a transition point.
- And ultimately, it changed a dialogue, a situation, and an entire world, by becoming **a point of surrender** and **submission** in the Garden.

Close:

THE POWER OF 'NEVERTHELESS' can change things for us as individuals and even as a church body.

- There are those who have said, "***It looked promising at first***, pastor, **but in spite of all that...**"
- But I choose to say, "Lord, the chairs may not be as full as I'd like for them to be right now, **but in spite of all that...**"
- **It can change** a dialogue, a situation, and eventually, an entire city, a nation, and yes, even a world.

THE POWER OF 'NEVERTHELESS'---you hold it within your own hands as to what sort of difference it will make.