



# Astonished!

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Eternally Speaking Now

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In the process of preparing for a women's Bible study last week, I stumbled upon the word 'astonished.' As I enjoy doing with words in the Bible, I looked up its Greek root in the Concordance. Needless to say, when I discovered its meaning, I was **blown away**. Join me for a few minutes as I share with you what will likely leave you as it did me: astonished.

Let's begin with the definition of that Greek root word:

ASTONISHED:  
**ἐκπλήσσω ekpléssō**, (ek-place'-so)

**To strike out, cast out, expel by a blow, drive out or away**  
**To strike one out of self-possession**  
**To strike with panic, shock, and amazement**

This word ekplesso appears in the Bible 13 times. In every case, it is used to describe humanity's response to Jesus and His Words. One of those occurrences is at the end of Matthew 7.

**"And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings,  
that the people were astonished at His teaching,  
for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."**

*Matthew 7:28-29*

So, Jesus delivered some 'sayings.'  
The people were left astonished.  
Why?

I see two reasons in the verses above:

- 1) Because of His teachings, and
- 2) Because He taught with an authority that the scribes didn't have.

What exactly were those sayings Jesus declared, and what made His authority different than that of the scribes?

Let's look at the answers to both those questions, beginning with the first one.  
*Get ready to be amazed.*

## **1. What are the sayings of Jesus?**

The specific answer to this question is found in the verses leading up to Matthew 7:28-29. Whatever He just finished saying would be what His sayings were, right? Well, if you back track through chapter 7, you'll soon discover that Jesus talked...and talked...and talked. He talked for three entire chapters, beginning in chapter 5, and what He said stunned the crowds.

Going beyond that, though, the general answer to "What are the sayings of Jesus?" is, simply put, the Word of God. Whatever the Lord has said qualifies as His 'sayings.' God's 'sayings' are His Word, and His Word is the Bible.

Check this out: The Greek root word for 'sayings' in Matthew 7 is *logos*. Did you know that 'logos' is used for 'the Word of God' throughout Scripture? One of those verses is Revelation 19:13, which refers to Jesus.

**"He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood,  
and His name is called The Word of God."**

**His name, Jesus, is called the LOGOS of God.**

Yet, it goes farther still.

Yes, His sayings are His Word, and yes, His name is called the Word of God, but John 1:1 and 1:14 indisputably declare as well that God's Word is literally Jesus Himself.

**"In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we beheld His glory,  
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,  
full of grace and truth."**

*John 1:1,14*

When the people in Matthew 7 heard Jesus' sayings,  
they encountered His Word,  
they witnessed His Name, and  
*they experienced Jesus Himself.*

I realize this may sound obvious: for example, if you and I were to speak to one another, it's understood we'd experience each other. It's different with Jesus, though. In fact, there's an eternity of difference.

God in the flesh stood before the people, and  
*they beheld His glory--*  
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

Then, since Jesus IS the Word,  
what came out of His mouth was, well, *Jesus*.  
And they were astonished.

Look at the definition of astonished again, considering it now in this context.

The people experienced God as Jesus spoke,  
and they were **blown away**.

They were **stricken out of self-possession**.

Some may have felt **panic**, as they discovered the Truth about their sin.

Multitudes witnessed the Word of God  
**cast out, expel, and drive away** demons from their midst.

How about you: are you astonished by God's Word?  
Are you amazed by His Logos-- the very Presence of Jesus in your life?

I pray you are experiencing ekplessos:  
God's Word **casting out** sinful habits,  
**expelling** lies from your way of thinking,  
**driving out** unhealthy influences, and  
**striking you out of selfishness**,  
leaving you astonished by His power and great love towards you.

## **2. What was the authority Jesus had that the scribes didn't have?**

The people weren't just shocked by Jesus' Word, but also by the authority He had-- an authority never witnessed. The scribes were religious leaders, and they had an impressive knowledge of the Scriptures, however, they were but mere men.

Not so with Jesus.

The word 'authority' in Matthew 7:29 comes from the following Greek word:

AUTHORITY:  
**ἐξουσία exousía**, ex-oo-see'-ah

**privilege, capacity, competency, freedom  
delegated influence:—authority, jurisdiction,  
liberty, power, right, strength**

Exousia. That's the authority of Jesus!  
He has all the right, freedom, jurisdiction, power, and delegated influence.  
He is fully competent and strong, endowed with a holy and righteous privilege.  
Amen.

Are you ready for even more astonishing news?  
Look at what Jesus told His disciples in Luke 10:19.

**"Behold, I give you the authority to  
trample on serpents and scorpions,  
and over all the power of the enemy,  
and nothing shall by any means hurt you."**

Are you His disciple?  
*Then you have been given the same authority of Jesus.*  
Yup, that word 'authority' in Luke 10:19 is the same Greek word, exousia!

What are we to do with that authority?  
The verse above says it clearly:  
Trample on serpents and scorpions.  
*Use God's Word against the enemy.*

Astonish the enemy by speaking the Scriptures with authority:

**Expel** worry and anxiety.  
**Strike down** depression and despair.  
**Cast out** fear, **drive away** anger, and **shock** pride to the ground.  
Make selfishness **panic** before you,  
and **strike a blow** against lust, covetousness, and greed!  
Stand **amazed** by God, as His Word through you astonishes the devil.

Then give Jesus all the glory.

**"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you,  
but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."**  
*Luke 10:20*

## CHALLENGE

I can't help but conclude with something fun and playful. As I neared the completion of this blog and was editing and re-editing, I suddenly noticed this:

The letters in the word astonished contain the phrase,  
**"A Stone Is He."**  
Do you see that?

**Astonished = aStonIsHe**

I found this delightful, as the very verses that precede the ones discussed in this blog (in Matthew 7:28-29) comprise the Parable of the Wise v. Foolish Builders. Upon what does the wise man build his house? The rock. *Jesus is that Rock.* He is our firm foundation. When we build our lives upon Him-- upon His Word-- no matter how hard the storms of life hit, our house will not fall. *(See the bottom of this writing to visit previous blogs about the intriguing and revelatory topic of rocks and stones in the Bible.)*

Jesus, our Rock, truly is astonishing.

Are you astonished by God's Word?  
Are you astonishing sin by using God's Word against it?  
His Word is not of mere men.  
*His Word is Himself.*

Two months ago, I wrote about "The sWording Prayer." The response to that writing has been remarkable. I've lost track of how many people have been impacted by it. So many of you have been praying that prayer, sharing it with others, using it in prayer gatherings and Bible studies, and experiencing tangible results from it. I cannot praise the Lord enough, for that prayer is all about using God's Word and praying it with His authority against the wiles of the devil. It's exhilarating to know that sin is being defeated more today, as a result of God's people more intentionally and deliberately taking up His sWord!

The sWording Prayer is the perfect tool  
not only to keep us in awe of God ourselves, but also to  
astonish the enemy and all the temptations he tosses our way.

Will you revisit and continue to utilize the sWording Prayer?  
I've changed the format so that it is easily printable as well.  
Just download it, do it, and determine to do it again regularly.  
Read it, reread it, listen to the podcast, and pass it along.  
Watch the Lord change your life.

***The links are below.***

**Be astonished by God!  
Then be used by Him as a mighty force  
to astonish the devil,  
one prayer at a time.**

**sWording Prayer:** Get ready to revolutionize your prayer life. It's time to go sWording, and the results are astounding: Testimonies continue to pour in from people reporting broken strongholds and radical victory over sin as a result of the sWording prayer. This can be your story, too. *Start sWording today.*

[sWording Blog](#)

[sWording Podcast](#)

**Read, listen to, or watch additional teachings below,  
and be encouraged by inspiring insights about the topic of stones.**

### Stonething for Everyone

There are over 450 verses in the Bible that talk about stones or rocks. After hours of study, I was amazed by how God uses this theme to reveal Himself to us. This will rock your world.

[Stonething Blog: including Podcast link](#)

### Take Five

Why did David take five stones to fight Goliath? Why not one, two, or three? Here's a new discovery of why he took five-- and it will impact your life in ways that will take out not just one or two but five of your own giants.

[Take Five Blog: including Video & Podcast links](#)

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