

I remember a certain number of years ago there was a Frenchman named Coue who came over to this country and made a great stir for a time because he said if you would say, Every day and every way I'm getting better and better, it would do you a tremendous amount of good. I think it would if you say it and mean it. Because you can hypnotize yourself, and most of us hypnotize ourselves into getting sick; it's much better to hypnotize yourself into getting well!

When I was in college I was in a literary society and they wrote ~~xxx~~ stories, and I remember one wrote a story about a man who was taken captive by some people in some Asian area, and was put in prison and there was a very ferocious guard keeping him in there. There was no possible way he could get out. He tried to speak to the guard, and the guard mimicked his words. It was quite evident he didn't understand a word he said. So he found if he would say, Hello, the guard would say Hello. Whatever he said the guard would immitate. So he said, In every day in every way I'm getting worser and worser. And he kept saying it and the guard kept repeating it. Pretty soon the guard got shriveled up into nothing and he walked out!

That's what I call magic words. I fear the idea some people have of the Bible is that by inerrancy we mean that these English words--or these Greek or Hebrew words if you want-- are magic words, and you can take two or three of them out of context and you get something there that is magical in itself. Now God chose to give us the Bible in Hebrew and Greek. But Heb. and Gk. like all languages are very fallible instruments for expressing thought. English, perhaps, is much worse than any of the others. Greek perhaps is as good as any there is, but any language is easily susceptible of misinterpretation and misunderstanding.

A great deal depends on the tone you put into the words. A great deal depends on punctuation which we did not have in ancient times at all. It is a difficult thing to express thoughts in such a way they cannot be misunderstood. Anyone who reads the Constitution of the U.S.A. and then reads recent utterances of the Supreme Court can easily see how words can easily be made to mean almost anything you feel inclined to make them mean. They are not some sort of magical words. I doubt if there is anybody here who takes the view I've seen in a paper which is very nicely printed and which I've been given two or three copies of which says the KJV is the inspired word of God and nothing else is. It is of course utter nonsense. Complete nonsense.

The thing that irritates me greatly is to see in that paper --it's been repeated at least three times, an article by a man who was in Princeton Seminary when I was there in which he tells how Robert Dick Wilson said that I believe everything in the Bible and wherever I find any difficulty there I just study into it and usually I find there is a clear answer to it. Where he spoke of (Wilson) believing everything in the Bible he put in parenthesis he meant the KJV. I knew Robert Dick Wilson very well and one thing I'm absolutely sure of he did not mean the KJV. The KJV was an excellent translation into the language of 300 yrs. ago.