



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE RIPPLE EFFECT...

Crossroads Church - 3 year campaign to end thirst

## SOAP READING—March 1, 2010

James Brown—Experience Pastor

### S: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Thessalonians 1.5: “For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you.”

**O:** There are two levels to love. The first level is our words. We need to say what we feel. This is true when we are dealing with family, spouse (or pre-spouse), or anyone else on whom our affections are set.

The second level of love is our deeds. This is why Paul writes that what they shared with the church in Thessalonica came “not only with words but also with power.” The power comes in the demonstration of love. The clear communication of “concern” comes in the “way we live.”

As with many card games, a “trump” card can beat any other card on the table. Deeds are like that. We may say one thing with our mouths, but then those words get “trumped” by our actions.

The goal is that the two of these things – words and deeds – say the same thing.

**A:** This idea has tremendous overlap for me when it comes to marriage. About a month ago, Phil talked about getting into the “interest box” of your spouse. What I have found is that this practice is really important and really effective in communicating love to my wife.

Why? It works because it communicates, “not only with words but also with power.” My goal is to continue to find ways of continuing this practice, so that she might say of me: “I know of your concern for me from the way you lived when you were with me.”

**P:** Father, make me into someone who speaks with power without ever saying a word. Amen!