**Fly the W**



I have realized yet another interesting fact about my new home in WV, the people here like sports. No, wait they LOVE sports. The Mountaineers are everywhere! They even crept into a work shop on ReadaLoud last week! Everyone is either talking about, going to watch or have just watched them. Sadly I don’t hear much about baseball teams especially a little spoken of, obscure team that resides in Chicago, IL. I think my WV friends are not aware that the Chicago Cubs are just as amazing as the Mountaineers – only in baseball , for they are working towards something truly astounding – winning the World Series. How are they doing that this year after not having won the World Series since over a 100 years ago? They work hard, they have a new coach, they have fans that are crazy and stalwart but they also have faith that they will fly the W over the World Series.

Flying a flag over Wrigley Field to denote wins and losses is a longstanding tradition. The phrase "White flag time at Wrigley!" is therefore used to explain that the Cubs have just won that day's home game. Currently, the Win Flag is composed of a large blue letter "W" on a white background while the Loss Flag is a large white letter "L" on a blue background. The flag is raised by a scoreboard crew member immediately after the completion of a game, and in the case of a doubleheader split, both flags are flown.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Long ago, my Grandpa Carlson who inevitably had a Cubs game on when we would go visit, convinced me to be a Cubs fan when I was a little girl. I’m pretty sure he did this just because my dad was a St. Louis Cardinals fan. Ever since I’ve always rooted for the Cubs and Dad rooted for the Cardinals, except the year my dad died. He had gotten very sick and the day I arrived to visit and help in any way I could, he was transported to the hospital. In the hospital we sat watching the ‘Cards’ play. The more we watched, the more I wanted them to win because they were Dad’s team. He wasn’t too animated as he didn’t feel well so I wanted them to win even more. I think somehow I thought if the Cards would win, so would Dad. But neither the Cards nor my Dad won the struggle they were fighting that year.

Then, this morning I heard the Cubs lost to the Giants and now there will be a 4th game in the National League Division Series Winning. Winning is not always as easy as wishing and rooting in front of the TV set or at a bedside or even on the baseball field. Winning takes faith and knowing in whom to put our faith. So today I put my faith in the Cubs that they can turn around and win, not only against the Giants but clear through the World Series. Despite their loss yesterday, today they must keep the faith and keep putting the W Flag out where everyone can see it to remember what ‘W’ means. They must keep speaking the words of faith to themselves as well as to others.

As Christians we say we have hope and we do but I think what we *really* need is faith. And we need to know in whom we put our faith. Our faith must be more than a thought, we must speak with faith. Jesus spoke – not in asking or begging or wondering if God would do something – but to situations at hand. To the storm and the wind- he spoke ‘be still’. To the man who was paralyzed, he spoke ‘stand up take your mat’. To the child who died, he spoke ‘get up little girl’. To the woman, he spoke ‘daughter, your faith has made you well’. To the spirit in the demoniac, he spoke ‘come out of him.’

He taught the disciples (and us) to speak to the mountain to move it; reminding them and us if we do so without any doubt, that mountain will move. Why can *we* do this? Because when we have faith in Jesus, we know Who empowers our words and our faith. We know Who hears and that the One who promised us is Faithful and True. We know when we speak we must speak with faith and if we want to be most like Jesus, we will begin with thanksgiving. When Jesus faced the cross, the greatest challenge to his faith, first he picked up the bread and gave thanks, even though that bread represented his body on the cross. This was first pointed out to me by Ann Voscamp in her book *One Thousand Gifts*. Before it all began he blessed God for Who God is and in that way, restored his own faith. When we give thanks for God’s greatness and love shown to us in Jesus, we can then speak to the storms of our life in humility, knowing it is Jesus that affects the change. Like the Cubs, we need to fly the W, if you and I ever want to win over our life situations. We need to speak Jesus’ Winning Words over our stumbling blocks and molehills so we become practiced in our faith-speaking making ready for mountains that will surely come in this broken world.

But the hard part is that like Jesus, we need to give thanks to God for this Win before the storm has calmed, before the mountain has moved and before we see the change. For that is the real way of flying the W, to have faith as we thank God for the Win before it happens just like Jesus did. He told his disciples, I will be tortured and killed but I will rise on the third day. He spoke the Win before it happened.

Oh am I thankful for the winning faith of the Chicago Cubs, but my prayer for our world, our country and our new home, the Mountaineer state, is that we learn to humbly, with thanksgiving, speak words that fly the W with faith in Jesus into our lives and communities as Jesus extends our simple faith to accomplish great and wonderful things here in the Kingdom of God on earth.

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cubs_Win_Flag> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)