

QUESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Tell your story. Describe a time when your words, or someone else's words, created a problem for you or for someone close to you.
2. What are some effective ways you have used to guard yourself from saying words that would hurt another person?
3. Read the following passages and note what the Bible says about the tongue:
 - a) Psalm 39:1
 - b) Proverbs 12:18
 - c) Proverbs 18:21
 - d) Proverbs 21:23
 - e) Matthew 12:36-37
 - f) Ephesians 4:29
 - g) I Peter 3:10
4. How does James use the forest fire as a warning against gossip?
5. What practical application are you going to make from this week's message? (*Share your decision with another person.*)
 - I am going to ask forgiveness of someone whom I have hurt with my words.
 - I am going to speak words of hope and encouragement to another believer who is going through a difficult time.
 - I am going to memorize Proverbs 15:4.

Cornerstone Church
James 3:1-12

July 31, 2022
Study Series #06

The Power of the Tongue

I. Introduction

A. The Problem with the Tongue

B. The Physiology of the Tongue

(See Proverbs 16:24; Colossians 4:6; Psalm 64:3)

“I have often regretted my speech, never my silence.”
Publius, Greek philosopher

C. Our Faith and the Tongue

(See James 1:19; James 1:26)

II. Taming the Tongue

A. The Power to Direct

(See James 3:1; Proverbs 10:19; James 3:2; Genesis 12:11-13; Numbers 20:10; Job 38:4; Matthew 26:33; Acts 23:3-5; James 3:3-4; Psalm 141:3; Proverbs 18:21; John 4:5-42; Acts 2:41; Proverbs 15:1; Proverbs 25:11; Proverbs 15:4)

B. The Power to Destroy

(See James 3:5; Proverbs 26:20-21; James 3:6-8; Genesis 1:28; Genesis 9:2)

C. The Power to Delight

(See James 3:9-11; Proverbs 10:11; Proverbs 18:4; Romans 15:32; John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26-27; James 3:11)

III. Conclusion

A. A Matter of the Heart

(See Matthew 15:17-18; Matthew 12:34; I Samuel 16:7; Jeremiah 17:9-10)

B. The Final Challenge

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian, or if you would like to talk with someone or have someone pray for you, please contact the church office and the pastor will contact you.

Passage of Study

James 3:1-12

¹ Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. ³ Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things.

See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. ¹¹ Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor *can* salt water produce fresh.

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