

Mastering the Tongue's Power
Active Faith Unleashed – Part 6
Life Church St. Louis – September 10, 2023
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Proverbs 18:21 (ESV) Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Matthew 12:36-37 (ESV) I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Matthew 12:34b (ESV) For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

1. Recognize your words' _____

James 3:1 (ESV) Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

James 3:2 (ESV) For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

2. Grasp the tongue's power and _____

James 3:3-5a (ESV) If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

James 3:5b-6 (ESV) How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

James 3:7-8 (ESV) For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

3. Pursue _____ in speech

James 3:9-10 (ESV) With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

James 3:11-12 (ESV) Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Mastering the Tongue's Power Study Guide
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Intro. How can your words bring death or life (Proverbs 18:21)?

How will your words be used by God on judgement day (Matthew 12:36-37)?

What determines the words that we speak (Matthew 12:34)?

1A. Why will teachers be judged with greater strictness (James 3:1)?

1B. How is our speech the determining factor in our entire lives (James 3:2)?

1C. How can you grow in recognizing the importance of your words?

2A. What do the two illustrations in James 3:3-5a tell us about the power of the tongue?

2B. What does James 3:5b-6 tell us about the danger of the tongue?

2C. Why can't anyone tame the words of their tongue on their own (James 3:7-8)?

2D. In what ways can you involve God in taming your tongue?

3A. What is wrong with a person blessing God and cursing people (James 3:9-10)?

3B. What is James' point with the illustrations in James 3:11-12?

3C. In what ways is our speech an indicator of our spiritual maturity?

3D. How can you use the evidence of your speech issues to work on your heart issues?