

JAMES

FAITH THAT WORKS

Faith and Words (James 3:1-12) | March 13, 2022

THE POWERFUL PROBLEM OF THE TONGUE

James 3:1-2 *Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.*

Proverbs 10:19 *When words abound, transgression is inevitable, but the one who restrains his words is wise.*

James 3:3-6 *When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.*

James 3:7-8 ⁷ *All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.*

- If we are to have a “Faith that Works,” we must _____ the power, the susceptibility, and the wildness of the tongue – and plan accordingly.

THE POSITIVE POTENTIAL OF THE TONGUE

James 3:1-12 *With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.*

Matthew 12:33-37 ³³ *“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. ³⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. ³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

Ephesians 4:29-32 *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

- If we are to have a “Faith that Works,” we need our words to _____ who we are: followers of Christ, brothers and sisters.

1. To have a “Faith that works” with words, we must make God's words the _____ and _____ we hear.
2. To have a “Faith that works” with words, we must constantly ask God to _____ our hearts.

Psalms 51:10 *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

John 6:63 *The words I have spoken to you - they are full of the Spirit and life.*

John 7:37-38 *Whoever believes in me... rivers of living water will flow from within them.*

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