

**Reading:** James 3:1-18

**Topic:** Taming The Tongue

**INTRODUCTION:** There are many components that contribute to being effective in \_\_\_\_\_ and in our study today we will examine a very important thing that can either \_\_\_\_\_ or break our witness for the Lord.

## I. WORDS & CONVERSATIONS

### A. *Conversation:*

1. God gave animals the ability to bark, howl and \_\_\_\_\_, the birds the ability to chirp and \_\_\_\_\_ but to the humans He created, He gave the ability to say \_\_\_\_\_ and carry on conversations.
2. For many generations, the only way to converse was by face to face \_\_\_\_\_, but now we can speak to one another by \_\_\_\_\_ means as well as in person.

### B. *Words Are Revealing:*

1. You cannot often tell much about a person by their \_\_\_\_\_ or by their clothes, but when they open their mouth and begin to \_\_\_\_\_, a lot is revealed about the individual. Luke 6:45
2. Words are the expressions of our inner \_\_\_\_\_ and emotions, and sad people will speak \_\_\_\_\_ words, angry people will speak \_\_\_\_\_ words, depressed people will speak \_\_\_\_\_ words.  
Mt. 12:34

## II. WORDS – BLESSINGS OR WEAPONS?

### A. *Speaking With Forked Tongue:*

1. There's an old expression that was used by native people – "speaking with forked tongue" which meant that an individual used his or her \_\_\_\_\_ in two ways – for \_\_\_\_\_ and bad. James 3:10
2. This kind of behavior is not the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for a child of God because it sets a poor example of what God intends for His people to be in this \_\_\_\_\_. James 3:11

### B. *Compliments or Cursings:*

1. Our words can be blessings as we speak encouragement and \_\_\_\_\_ to people, or they can also be weapons that start a \_\_\_\_\_ that can turn into a major battle. Pr. 15:1
2. The disciple of Jesus – Simon Peter, spoke \_\_\_\_\_ of revelation one moment and then a short time later, he was rebuked by \_\_\_\_\_ for speaking wrong words. Mt. 16: 16,17; 22,23

## III. A GOD CONTROLLED TONGUE:

### A. *Our Lack of Control:*

1. The Word of God makes it clear that none of us have the \_\_\_\_\_ or ability to control our tongue, for though it is a \_\_\_\_\_ member of our body, it is a powerful thing. James 3:5-8
2. The Bible tells us that if we could control our tongues, then we would be \_\_\_\_\_ but it is evident to all of us that none of us are able to be \_\_\_\_\_. James 3:2

**B. Praying To Tame the Tongue:**

1. Most of us are aware of the potential of our words – both to do \_\_\_\_\_ or to bring trouble and a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ to other people. Prov. 29:11
2. We may make up our minds to be more careful with what we say, but it is a \_\_\_\_\_ to try to keep from saying things that we should not \_\_\_\_\_ even though we pray for help.

**C. Scriptural Prayers:**

1. One of the best verses in the Bible is one that David prayed for the \_\_\_\_\_ to become the guard and the watchman over his \_\_\_\_\_ and lips. Ps. 141:3
2. Another prayer is one that recognizes that God is watching and \_\_\_\_\_ to our thoughts and our words and therefore we need to be very \_\_\_\_\_ of what we think and \_\_\_\_\_. Ps. 19:14
3. There is a good verse to \_\_\_\_\_ as we begin each day to ask God to \_\_\_\_\_ us to keep our tongues and mouth from saying anything bad during the day. Ps. 34:13

**D. Keeping Spiritual Life Strong:**

1. The best advice to give to people who are battling with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the tongue is to keep your spiritual life \_\_\_\_\_ through your daily \_\_\_\_\_ time and reading the Word of God. Rom. 8:5
2. When we are prayed up and filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, we are less likely to spew out words of carnality, gossip and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When we are filled with the Spirit of God, we will produce the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit and do the things that are pleasing to God including speaking the right \_\_\_\_\_. Gal. 5:22,23

**CONCLUSION:** It is not a \_\_\_\_\_ testimony for a child of God to use his/her \_\_\_\_\_ and mouth for slander, gossip, cursing, etc. but when a spirit-filled child of God pours out words of comfort and encouragement, it is a \_\_\_\_\_ to those who listen.