

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.