

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

Since death and life are in the power of the tongue, let us choose life-giving words so that we can reap and indulge in their fruits.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Relationships are built on Words – what we say to each other, how we communicate. We can build (or destroy) relationships by what we say.
- ❖ James Chapter 3 begins with a warning to those who desire to teach the Word of God. You take on added responsibility before God and man when you stand up and declare the word of the Lord. In other words, a teacher/preacher will receive heavier judgement if they fail to practice what they teach or preach.
- ❖ James puts that thought out there, then moves into an area that involves everyone. He says in verse 2 that you are a perfect man *if you can control your tongue*. Why did he say that? Because the tongue is the most uncontrollable part of our bodies. If you can control your tongue, practicing self-control in other areas of your life is easy.
- ❖ There is power in our tongue to do good or to do evil. James further states in chapter 5:9 that we should not grumble against one another, lest we are condemned. In verse 12, he says that we should not swear, lest we fall into judgement. Ponder the following scriptures:
 - Proverbs 18:21 – "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

Every time you speak you leave things in the atmosphere. That is why the Psalmist could say:
 - "My tongue is like the pen of a ready writer" (Psalm 45:1b)

The pen of a writer can erase things and write them over again but with the tongue, once the words are out, they are gone in the atmosphere. You cannot take them back. Therefore, we need to know how to use our tongue in a healthy, life-giving way. The tongue manifests who we are on the inside.
 - 1 Peter 3:10 – "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile."
 - Proverbs 15:1 – "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."
 - Ephesians 4:29 – "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."
 - Matthew 12:36-37 – "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."
- ❖ No wonder the Psalmist said – "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (141:3).
- ❖ Some things happen to you because your own mouth puts you into problems. Your own mouth condemns you (Job 9:20). Are you one that would say, "I am so

KEY SCRIPTURES:

James 3:1-10 (AMP); Proverbs 18:21

- stupid"; "I am an idiot"; "I am a fool"; "I can't do anything right"; "Poor me"?
- ❖ If you believe there is a God, then you must believe that you were created in His likeness. You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). You possess of the kingdom of God and can do all things through Christ who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13).
- ❖ Stop the negative self-talk. Know what the Word of God says. Change your thinking and self-talk to empower your life for success and to battle self-doubt and discouragement.
- ❖ When you tell your children that they are useless, will amount to nothing and don't have any sense, you are sending negativity into their lives. You are speaking death over them rather than life. Instead, use your mouth to inspire them.
- ❖ Speak life-giving words to your brothers and sisters; to the young people; to graduates of high school, college or university; to those struggling to find their place in the body of Christ and in society.
- ❖ The Scripture says God is watching over His Word, to do what? To fulfil it! Therefore, I am going to speak His Words because I want Him to fulfil them in my life and the lives of others.
- ❖ When the words you speak are God's words, you are guaranteed results. Insert yourself into scripture verses; personalize scripture passages. Use your tongue to bring you there.
- ❖ Jesus said man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God (Matt. 4:4). Not *some* words, but *every* word. So, let us *live* the Word by putting it in our hearts and on our tongues.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read Proverbs 18:21, 10:19 and Joshua 1:8. What do we learn from these verses and how can we apply this knowledge?
2. How and for whom might the following scriptures be life-giving words (yourself/ your child/church brothers and sisters...)?
John 1:12, 5:15; Romans 5:1, 6:8-28, 8:17, 28, 37; 1 Corinthians 6:20, 15:57; 2 Cor. 1:21-22.
3. Choose one or two scriptures would be life-building i) to yourself and ii) to someone else. Then *speak* them – out loud – now, or as soon as you are able, to yourself and to them.

PRAYER TIME

Lord, help my tongue to practice words that give life, build up and give You glory. In Jesus' name.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: At about what time of the day do you usually start talking after you wake up? (Is it a time or an event, e.g. first coffee/get to work?)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

Sing them over again to me
Wonderful words of life
Let me more of their beauty see
Wonderful words of life
Words of life and beauty
Teach me faith and duty.
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life;
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life.

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study
SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE
SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast
MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on Zoom, Facebook, YouTube
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MAY 23, 2021



Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

Psalms 19:14 NKJV

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