

BOOK OF JAMES (PART 6)– WES MARTIN

JAMES 3

I. WORDS, WORDS, WORDS!

- A. Jesus tells us that out of the heart, the mouth speaks. Pull on the tongue, and you pull on the human heart and the content housed there.

“For the overflow of what has been stored in your heart will be seen by your fruit and will be heard in your words.” Luke 6:45

II. THE WAY WE SPEAK AFFECTS OUR LIVES

Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. James 3:2

- A. Many translate "perfect" as "mature." It is the same word used in James 1:4.

The teacher often focuses on getting the facts right but James points out that their greatest challenge is their speech outside the classroom. – Dale Anderson

- B. We see James equating bridling the tongue to bridling the whole body. James makes a very interesting statement here. There is a correlation between the tongue and the emergence/temptation of human sin and addiction. He is suggesting that the tongue is connected to the growth and prosperity of the spirit and soul of man.

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

*We will “walk” in the influence of the Holy Spirit to the measure that we use our words and talk to Him.
– Mike Bickle*

- C. We grow in our awareness of the Spirit the more we speak with Him. A simple prayer: *“Holy Spirit thank You for Your life within me today. You possess joy, love, goodness and grace. Let me experience these things today.”*
- D. The more we use our words and engage the Holy Spirit the more we will experience His presence in our life.
- E. Our words can release life or death inside our heart as well as to others.

Your words are so powerful that they will kill or give life. Proverbs 18:21

Let every word you speak be drenched with grace and tempered with truth and clarity. Colossians 4:6

III. WARNING: THERE IS POWER IN THE MOUTH

- A. James uses three metaphors (a small bit controlling a powerful horse, a small rudder guiding a big ship, a small spark starting a blazing fire) to emphasize the truth that the mouth/tongue as a small member of our body is a significant key to the much larger issues related to our body, life and relationships.

Analogy #1: horse's bit; controlling power

Analogy #2: rudder on a ship – setting direction

Analogy #3: a small spark igniting a raging fire

- B. The good news is that by the grace of God we can use this small piece of our lives (our words) to profoundly increase the quality of our interior life in Christ and impact others.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

- C. Our words have profound impact to restore, give hope and stir up faith.

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. Galatians 6:1

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13

Discover creative ways to encourage others and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love...we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward. Hebrews 10:24-25

- D. Our words also have profound impact to tear apart, cast doubt and stir up fear.

A soothing tongue [speaking words that build up and encourage] is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue [speaking words that overwhelm and depress] crushes the spirit. Proverbs 15:4

Reckless words are like the thrusts of a sword, cutting remarks meant to stab and to hurt. But the words of the wise soothe and heal. Proverbs 12:18

IV. WHAT WISDOM SOUNDS LIKE

If you consider yourself to be wise and one who understands the ways of God, advertise it with a beautiful, fruitful life guided by wisdom's gentleness. Never brag or boast about what you've done and you'll prove that you're truly wise. But the wisdom from above is always pure, filled with peace, considerate and teachable. It is filled with love and never displays prejudice or hypocrisy in any form. James 3:13, 17
