

Faith Takes Grit: Dispel Hypocrisy with Holy Speech

James 3:1-12

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Wow! This message should hit home with all of us! Good news-bad news! The bad news is: speech and our tongues are SO DIFFICULT to control and they can do so much damage so quickly. The good news is: our speech and our tongues can be REDEEMED by God and the Holy Spirit within us! Let's celebrate that! In today's notes/discussion I want you to focus on **YOU**. Don't point fingers at others or point out the speck in their eyes when you have a log in yours. What does God want you to change in **YOUR** heart re: your speech and tongue usage?

Pray! Pray that the Lord reveals, in your life, where your speech is not holy. Pray that your heart would be open to change your speech and your tongue. Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict you where you need to be convicted.

1. How you use your words will determine how you are judged by God. v. 1.
 - That statement alone should give you some fear and trepidation in your heart and soul. Does it? How would God judge you on your word/speech usage? What is a **specific** weakness in your speech/words use? Not sure? Ask those around you who know you well.
 2. The tongue is small, but it can have huge impact. – vv. 2-6.
 - “Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words...” True statement? When have YOU been hurt by words? Who have you hurt with your words? How can you work towards restoration with those individuals? Share a person (that you have hurt) and share a plan with somebody and have them hold you accountable. What is truly at the **root** of your speech weakness?
 3. No human can tame the tongue, but God who created it can. – vv. 7-8.
 - How often do you pray that God will help you with your speech? Do you rely more on God and the Holy Spirit in you? Or do you rely on your own power when it comes to your tongue? Have you, open-handedly, surrendered your speech/tongue to God? What does that look like on a daily basis? How are you doing with that?
 4. Dispel hypocrisy by striving for holiness in your speech. – vv. 9-12.
 - Hypocrisy shows up in MANY ways. Acting out on anything opposite of God's will is hypocrisy. Look at this list. Which ones cause you to be guilty of being a hypocrite? Gossip-Slander-Verbal Abuse-Sarcasm/Insults-Degrading yourself or others- perverted speech. CAN YOU ADD MORE?
 - Discuss what the following proverbs say about wisdom and speaking. Proverbs 10:8, 14, 18, 31; 12:18; 15:2; 16:23; 17:28; 18:2, 6-7; 19:1; 29:11, 20.
 - Read Matthew 12:33-37. What are the similarities you can see between what Jesus teaches and what James teaches?
1. What 1 element of this message really jumped out at you and speaks to your heart?
 2. **Memorize** James 3:2-5. Keep this verse in your “hip pocket” and pull it out often!
 3. Do you have any “speech caused forest fires” that you need to deal with and put out? “Just do it!” Ask God to guide you and give you a humble heart to proceed.
 4. Read Matthew 12:33-37. What are the similarities you can see between what Jesus teaches and what James teaches?