

Taming the Tongue

#3217 25 0302A

wds1577

Psalm 51:11 *take not thy holy spirit from me*
1 John 1:8 *If we claim to be without sin, we*
James 3:6 *The tongue also is a fire, a world of*
Mark 7:21 *From within, out of the heart of men*
James 3:9 *With the tongue we praise our Lord*
Matthew 7:16 *By their fruit you will recognize*

1 Our words can be very harmful if we are not careful what we say or how we say it, so this should be our daily prayer for the Holy Spirit to be with us and control the things we say that day.

2 AV Psalm 51:11 *“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”*

3 The apostle James reminds us how easy it is to *offend* people by thoughtless and careless words.

4 AV James 3:2 *“For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word [in what he says NIV], the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.”*

5 To *offend* someone with our words is a failure to do God’s will. AV Proverbs 20:9 *“Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?”*

6 John 1:8 says *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us”* NIV.

7 Jesus is the only perfect One, but as a spiritually-mature individual, we should be able to *control* our tongue.

8 As we desire to be Christlike in what we say to others, it is important to ask for the Holy Spirit each morning so we say words that encourage and help them.

9 If we have asked God to help us *control* our tongue and the words we use, then the rest of our life—with its choices and decisions would also be controlled in like manner.

10 AV James 3:3 *“Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.”*

11 NKJV 4 *Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.”*

12 The analogy reveals the power of the tongue. The bit is on the top of a horse’s tongue and is attached to the reins, so it is possible for the rider to make the horse obey.

13 Controlling the horse’s mouth controls the head and directs the rest of the body. If we are to be a blessing and helpful to fellow believers, our tongue and words must be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

14 The ship the apostle used in going to Rome held 276 people Acts 27:37, so compared to its size, a ship’s rudder is very small, yet it easily controls the direction of a large vessel.

15 NIV James 3:5 *“Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.”*

16 Pride is a serious sin that causes much harm when using proud and boastful words.

17 To witness for Christ and be helpful to fellow believers, we must have the Holy Spirit *control* our words. We must always desire to *encourage* and *build up*—*not* discourage or put down.

18 AV James 3:6 *“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and*

setteth on fire the course of nature [course of your life NIV]; and it is set on fire of hell.”

19 The tongue has the potential to quickly harm, corrupt, and destroy.

20 The tongue is able to talk about any conceivable issue, so it has the power to harm, damage, and distort any conceivable issue. God can help us use words that edify, build, and encourage.

21 The smallest spark can spread a fire exponentially into an enormous conflagration that destroys thousands of acres of forest, animals, property, and human lives.

22 Fire has the capacity to reproduce itself when it has fuel. Fire feeds on itself and burns indefinitely if there is oxygen and flammable material present.

23 The analogy is that *gossip* spreads, multiplies, and defiles many as the story is passed on by others. If continued, it eventually corrupts and destroys the reputation and lives of many individuals.

24 Verse 6 is the strongest statement in Scripture on the danger of the tongue and the destructive nature of words.

25 God’s Word warns—the tongue is a *world of evil*, it *corrupts the whole person*, it can *set our entire life on fire*, and the tongue itself is *set on fire by hell*.

26 No other part of the body has such potential for destruction and ruin as the tongue.

27 By unwise words or foolish statements, our whole body can be contaminated. It can be similar to a fire that does not completely destroy something, but many things are *still ruined* by smoke or water damage.

28 The tongue can defile our entire body—AV Mark 7:21 *“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,*

29 **22** *Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness [worldly thoughts], an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:*

30 **23** *All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”*

31 The tongue not only contaminates *us*, but we defile everyone we *influence* through our offensive words and foolish statements.

32 We are *known* by the way we *talk*—so it is vital we *think* before we *speak*. Our whole life can be set ablaze by taking part in gossip, slander, lying and other evils of the tongue.

33 Our speech can be set on fire by Gehenna—a word that refers to the valley of Hinnom SW of Jerusalem where the worst refuse was burned.

34 The tongue can be a *restless evil*, so we need to be *aware* and to *pray* for God to control what we say to people.

35 The tongue can be used as a tool for the devil—to pollute, corrupt, slander, discourage and destroy. The tongue can be very destructive—with most people being unaware of the power it has to harm others.

36 The tongue is all too often a *restless evil*, so we need to pray for God to control *what* we say and *how* we say things.

37 NKJV James 3:7 *“For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.*

38 **8** *But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”*

39 The tongue is uncontrollable and unmanageable if left to itself—it is undisciplined, irresponsible, and prone to do *much* evil. It rebels against every effort to control it. No one can tame the tongue by their own human ability.

40 Our prayer is King David’s prayer NIV Psalm 141:3 *“Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.”*

41 The tongue can be plotting, deceptive, and devious in achieving some self-advantage.

42 The tongue James 3:8 is a *restless evil and full of deadly poison*. The harsh words of Laban’s sons drove Jacob and his family out of the land—and harmed Laban’s own family in the process Genesis 31.

43 Doeg the Edomite was not truthful when speaking with King Saul about David and Ahimelech, which resulted in the massacre of eighty-five priests and the entire city of Nob 1 Samuel 22:9-19.

44 The Lord Jesus was crucified because of lies from *false witnesses* Matthew 26:57-60, and Stephen was stoned because of spiteful words and false statements Acts 6 and 7.

45 NIV James 3:9 *“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness.*

46 **10** *Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.”*

47 Because of the sacrifice of Jesus for *our* sins, we should always be praising God our Savior.

48 The Pharisees praised God one minute and demanded the crucifixion of Jesus the next. This is how wicked and deceitful the tongue can be if it is not controlled by a higher power.

49 Simon said to Jesus AV Matthew 16:16 *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,”* but when Jesus was on trial AV Matthew 26:74 Simon *“Began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man.*

50 *Immediately a rooster crowed—Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken—and he wept bitterly”* Matthew 26:74-75.

51 Saying words of praise to God one minute and then condemning His Son the next should not be in a Christian’s life—it is an unacceptable compromise on godly living.

52 AV 2 Corinthians 7:1 *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*

53 NIV Ephesians 4:24 *“Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

54 The Holy Spirit will give us the *desire* and the *ability* to speak in a way that is helpful, scriptural, and encouraging to those around us.

55 NIV James 3:11-12 *“Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”*

56 Such a thing is contrary to nature and cannot happen, so a *hateful* heart cannot produce *loving* speech. An unrighteous *heart* produces unrighteous words. Matthew 7:16 *“By their fruit you will recognize them.”*

57 It all comes back to AV Romans 12:1 *“I beseech you, [I plead with you WEY], therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

††

1. Psalm 51:11 *“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”*
2. Mark 7:21 *“From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications,”* etc.

www.fcgchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:
fcgchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283
Philadelphia, PA 19120
#3217 25 0302A