

GOD CAN TAME MAN'S GREAT TONGUE

TEXT: James 3:8: *But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

Most people, of their own strength, cannot hold their tongues. The last thing most of us surrender to God is our tongue. Some people think it wise to give another a piece of their mind. No wonder they have little left.

Fortunately, God can tame the tongue by changing the mind and heart of man. When our soul is filled with love for all, when one's heart is pure from all hate, spite, malice, envy, jealousy and revenge — it is easier to tame the tongue and keep within the bounds of truth and righteousness.

God can tame the tongue by changing the mind and heart of man.

“Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account of thereof in the day of judgment,”

Matthew 12:36: But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment.

Isaiah 3:8-9:

⁸ For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of His Glory.

⁹ The show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

1 Peter 2:23: [continuing to speak of Jesus] Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him [Father God] Who Judgeth Righteously:

God is able, by regeneration of the heart of man and the indwelling of the Spirit, to purify the fountain of life and reign in the heart supremely. It is by the indwelling of His Spirit that He is able to control the life of a Christian, enabling him to speak the truth in love.

Ephesians 4:13-15:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of

the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ:

A story is told of a woman who came to a priest to make a confession. He asked her if she had committed certain sins, going through the usual list. When he came to slander, she said, "Yes".

He said, "*I cannot grant you absolution for this until you do one thing. Go and empty one of your pillows of the feathers, out the window, and then return to me.*"

"*I have done as you told me, now grant me absolution,*" she said.

"*Return first and gather all the feathers together and bring them to me*", said the priest, "*and I will grant you absolution.*"

"*Why, I can't do that! They are all over creation by now!*"

"*So is your slander. It is as hard to re-gather such words as it is to re-gather feathers.*"

The lesson was learned about the wrong, crooked use of a wagging tongue. She needed a clean heart, clean mind, and clean tongue which was tamed only by the Lord Jesus.

Job 6:24: Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.

The TONGUE IS:

A world of iniquity.

Set on fire of Hell.

Tamed by no man.

An unruly evil.



Full of deadly poison.

It boasteth great things.

It defileth the whole body.

It setteth on fire the course of nature.



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; and it is set on fire of Hell.

If we lived constantly aware of the Presence of God, our words would be weighed by His thoughts of others, and not by our family's human judgment.

Nothing can rake up more filth, vileness, enmity, strife and bitterness, or make the heart more sore than words. Railing and slander are the worst forms, but the "little fox" of criticizing one another is as deadly. The Holy Spirit warns us:

Proverbs 10:19: In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

It is impossible for even the best of saints to talk beyond a certain point without saying something foolishly. To speak effectively, we must speak in God's appointed time and in harmony with the Word of God.

Proverbs 17:27: He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

Talkativeness is utterly ruinous to deep spirituality. The very life of our spirit comes out in our speech; hence, all superfluous talk is a waste of the vital force of our heart's virtue.

Things that should be buried are dragged out into gossip. Worthless, non-essentials are argued and disputed over until the deep, solid union with Christ is gone.

Talk dissipates the spiritual sweetness and, inch by inch, we shrivel up. Most of our talk is pale skim milk. The cure of running off at the mouth is a work of Grace within. The tongue is by far the most sinful and destructive part of the body, as stated in:

The cure of running off at the mouth is a work of Grace within.

Proverbs 6:16-19:

16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

James 1:26: If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

That is, if a person testifies about the Lord, prays, reads the Bible, goes to church — but fails to control his tongue and gossips, then he is not a real Christian. He deceives his own heart. His religion is vain.

George Moriarity, a famous American League empire, told a group of men at a luncheon club that he could never understand how crowds, hundreds of feet from the plate, could see better and judge more accurately than he can when he is never more than seven feet away. Still, they often boo and jeer at his decisions, and now and then they throw anything they can get their hands on.

How often in life we, too, are calling strikes on someone when we are too far away to understand. Perhaps if we had a closeup view of the man and his position or problems, we would reverse our decisions. Long distance criticism is not just.

Long distance criticism is not just.

James, Our Lord's Brother, wrote his letter to emphasize the importance of righteous conduct — not as a means of salvation, but as an expression of true salvation. James gives practical help concerning how to be victorious over both trials from without and temptations from within.

James 1:2: My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

James 1:12: Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the Crown of Life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.

The word temptation seen above in **James 1, verses 2 and 12**, certainly means

“trials and tests,” because the Lord would not tell us to “count it all joy” when inwardly enticed or inclined toward evil.

1. Troubles, trials, and persecutions from without are for the purpose of testing our faith. Faith needs to be “tried” in order to prove its reality and to bring glory to God when it stands the test.
2. Blessings are gained by the trial of faith. *“Count it all joy”*, says James. It takes training to become a good accountant. Similarly, it takes training to learn to take the proper attitude toward outward trials and tests. We sing about counting our blessings. Let us consider the blessings which come from the trial of faith. Trials prove the reality of personal faith and the purity of our motives. In trials we discover that God’s strength is made perfect in our weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10:

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the Power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

3. The trial of faith produces virtue. The trying of our faith worketh patience. Patience or endurance is a vital necessity to Christian growth and progress. It enables us to accept, without murmuring, the trials which God permits; to bear ill treatment, slander and injury without resentment; to act without undue haste in all our affairs; to wait without unbelief; and to believe without wavering.



4. The trial of faith promotes completeness. Trials weathered victoriously make us complete, well-rounded Christians — Christians with chastened spirits, submissive wills, sympathetic natures, humble, grateful, hopeful, unworldly, and spiritual.

James 1:4: But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:13-18:

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

18 Of His Own Will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we should be a kind of Firstfruits of His creatures.

Sin is the result of entertaining evil suggestions in the mind, then allowing the emotions and will to become involved. Sin is either carrying these natural desires beyond the bounds set by God, or endeavoring to satisfy what may be a normal desire in a manner prohibited by God.



Temptation is not sin. Unless we deliberately expose ourselves to evil suggestions, we are no more responsible for the pictures projected thereon. But we are responsible for what we do with those thoughts. And we can overcome as Christ did by resisting the devil using the Word of God, and keeping before us the Christian's supreme motive — **TO GLORIFY GOD!**

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