

THE GIFT OF SPEECH, Pt 6

Talking Too Soon

Christian Character in Action: Lesson 22

22 July 2022

JAMES 3:1-8, THE CHRISTIAN TONGUE

Vs 1-3 The tongue is the unruliest part of our body.

We must take extra measures (like a bridle) to control our tongue.

- We need to understand that it is going to hurt if we do not comply with God's desire that we speak properly.
- Other parts of our body do not require such extreme measures.

Vs 4-5 The tongue is compared to the helm of a ship, which is very small in comparison to the ship, but it has a great affect on the direction of that ship.

- Your tongue has a great affect on the direction of your life.
- Just as a little fire can kindle a big fire, the little tongue can cause great damage in all our relationships.

Vs 6 The tongue is a **WORLD of iniquity**. God used the word "world" so that we will understand the enormous potential the tongue has to do GREAT damage.

The tongue is "**set on fire of hell.**" That is, it is the closest thing to hell that the Christian will ever know.

"It defileth the whole body." You can do everything right as a Christian, but if you don't have control of your tongue, you can wreck it all with one misspoken word.

Vs 7-8 People have always been able to tame wild animals of all kinds, but no man can tame the tongue. The tongue is more dangerous than a wild animal.

James 1:19 The Lord wants us to be careful with our responses in heated discussions. He instructs us to be "**slow to speak.**" That means we need to first carefully weigh the possible damage that might be done by an ugly response.

- "Slow to speak" means we ought to WAIT—before we respond to an unpleasant communication.
 - This includes speech, texting, email, and social networking.
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Prov 18:13 Here is a warning about answering a matter before we know all the facts and details concerning it. It is foolish to do so. Let the person finish speaking before responding.

- Don't react unwisely to hearsay. Get all the evidence before deciding what to say or do; especially if someone has been accused of wronging you.
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Prov 10:19 The more you speak, the more likely you will sin with your lips. Refrain from talking too much.

Prov 15:28 The ability to give a proper answer requires **study**. We must put in the hours of Bible study required to ensure that our heart does not pour out "**evil things**" through our lips.

- Study to find out how a Christian is supposed to speak.
 - Be **READY** to give an answer (1 Pet 3:15).
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Eccl 5:1-6 To speak few words is better than being "**rash with thy mouth**" (vs 2). God considers it more important to "**be more ready to hear**" (vs 1) than to speak your mind.

"Let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God" (vs 2). How often do we make promises to God (in song or in prayer) and we are not sincere?

"Let thy words be few." God doesn't want us to say something to Him if we don't mean it. Take time to think about it before you speak.

A person who is a fool will expose himself as a fool by much talking (vs 3).

Don't make a vow to God if it is likely that you won't pay it (vs 4).

Don't let your mouth cause your flesh to sin (vs 6).

- You might successfully get some things under control (hands, feet, ears, eyes, etc.), but your tongue could wreck it all if you don't get it under control.
 - "It defileth the whole body" (James 3:6).
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