

Sunday, August 3, 2025

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Power Over the Tongue:

Series: James...6 **Text:** James 3:1 - 12

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of the importance of guarding the use of our tongue.

Introduction:

Last week, the devotional was entitled 'True Faith' and was based James 2:14 - 26:

~ 1. Dead Faith; ~ 2. Demonic Faith; ~ 3. Divine Faith
~ "It would appear that they were having serious problems with their tongues."

See James 1:19, 26; 2:2- 3, 12; 4:1, 11 - 12

~ In order to impress on us the importance of controlled speech, and the great consequences of our words, the Holy Spirit through James, gives us six pictures of the tongue: the bit, the rudder, fire, a poisonous animal, a fountain, and a fig tree.

1. The Tongue Can Direct People:

~ vs. 1 - 4

~ vs. 1, apparently not a few desired to be teachers; the Holy Spirit needed to give a warning regarding judgment! Biblically there is tremendous responsibility and accountability on those who teach God's holy Word.

~ John, practice what you preach; do not be a hypocrite. G5273, hypocrites: an actor, stage player

~ vs. 2, "For we all stumble in many ways, And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body."

~ vs. 8, "but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison."

~ Two illustrations:

~ vs. 3, "bits into the mouths of horses" CIBC audit, Cranbrook, trail ride...

~ vs. 4, "small rudder" Sinking of the Bismark, WW 2;

~ R. A. Torrey

~ Words usually lead to actions.

~ Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

~ Proverbs 8:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."

~ Psalm 141:3, "Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips."

~ Matthew 12:34, "You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

~ "On April 21, 1855, Edward Kimball went into a Boston shoe store and led young Dwight L. Moody to Christ. The result: one of history's greatest evangelists, a man whose ministry still continues. The tongue has the power to direct others to right choices."

2. The Tongue Can Destroy:

~ vs. 5 - 8

~ vs. 5, "So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!"

~ Jasper in 2024; Hawaii in 2023; Los Angeles in 2025

~ vs. 6, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell."

~ Psalm 39:1 and 3, "I said, 'I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, so long as the wicked are in my presence.'" (3) My heart became hot within me. As I mused, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue."

~ Proverbs 14:29, "Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly."

~ Proverbs 17:27, "Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding."

~ Colossians 4:6, "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

~ vs. 7, the illustration of beast and bird...

~ vs. 8, "but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison."

~ "For every word in Hitler's 'Mein Kampf,' 125 lives were lost in WW 2."

~ "If the heart is filled with hatred, Satan will light the fire. But if the heart is filled with love, God will light the fire."

3. The Tongue Can Bless:

~ vs. 9 - 12

~ vs. 9, "With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God."

~ vs. 10, "From the same mouth come blessings and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."

~ Proverbs 10:11, "The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence."

~ Proverbs 12:18, "There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

~ Proverbs 18:4, "The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook."

~ The tongue of the righteous is like a refreshing fountain!

~ We should not only be a 'refreshing fountain' our words should help heal and cleanse: ~ Ephesians 5:26 - 27

~ Proverbs 4:23, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."

Conclusion: Isaiah 6:1 - 8

Communion