

The Power of the Tongue



James 3:1-13, Proverbs 18:21

- Series: “The Power of a Transformed Life in Christ”
- Theme: The Year of Refreshing – The word “refreshing” is synonymous to the word rejuvenate, revive, to renew, restore or to refortify.
- Purpose – to teach us how to become effective and efficient in our walk with Christ as believers.
- Goal – to allow the Holy Spirit to break down the spiritual barriers in our lives, so that we can maximize our growth and fulfill our God-given purpose.
- Here in these passages of Scriptures Apostle James and Solomon directs our attention to one of the smallest members of our body, but it has the ability to cause great destruction. (James 3:1-13, Proverbs 18:21)
- God has given us a tool to build with but if we fail to use our speech wisely, carefully, and lovingly it will become a tool of destruction to all who encounter it. (Proverbs 18:21)
- We will never find words that are more powerful, impactful, inspiring and encouraging like the Word of God.
- We can use our tongue (our words, speech), to speak blessings and life or curses and death.

A. The Apostle James gives us Three Areas that Reveal Christian Maturity in Believers.

1. The Believer’s attitude toward suffering. (Chapter 1)
2. The Believer’s attitude toward faith and obedience to the Word of God. (Chapter 2)
3. The Believer’s attitude toward controlling their Tongue. (Chapter 3).

B. There are Two Things that Apostle James warns about Teachers within the church. (vs. 1)

- (vs. 1) – My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgement.
1. Teachers of the Word of God should be aware of the responsibility given to us by God.
 2. Teachers of the Word of God should be aware that they will face a stricter judgement from God.

3. This is a strong warning to all teachers, all preachers and all believers who minister the Word of God. We should never take our role and assignment lightly.

- Your words can lead to a life of freedom or life of bondage.

4. Both teachers and believers should be godly examples both in word and deeds.

- As believers we must know that our lifestyle, actions, deeds, and words should display to the world that we are true servants of Christ Jesus. (Galatians 1:10)
- As believers we must fully understand the devastation that can be created and caused by an uncontrolled, untamed tongue or speech. (Proverbs 18:21)
- As believers we must know that we have been set apart for God and His purposes. (Romans 1:1-6)

C. There are Four Things Apostle James reveals about both Teachers and Believers (vs. 2)

1. That we all stumble in many ways. (Romans 3:23)

2. The believer's tongue will speak in great detail about our Christian maturity. (vs. 2)

- (vs. 2) – For we often stumble and fall and offend in many things. And if anyone does not offend in speech (never says the wrong things), he is a fully developed character and a perfect man, able to control his whole body and to curb his entire nature. (AMP)
- The word “perfect” means mature or fully developed.
- The word “bridle” means control or restrain.
- The believer maturity can be measure by how well their tongue is controlled and restrained.

3. The believer proves their maturity by their ability to control or restrain their tongue (vs. 3-4).

D. There are Five Things that the Tongue has the power to do.

1. The Tongue power to direct. (vs. 3-4)

2. The Tongue power to destroy. (vs. 5-8)

3. The Tongue power to Delight in God. (vs. 9-13)

4. The Tongue can reveal the Believer state of Maturity.

- The mature believer uses their tongue wisely to bring peace. (Proverbs 15:1)
 - The mature believer uses their tongue in a wise manner by observing their words carefully. (Proverbs 15:2)
 - The mature believer uses their tongue in a graceful manner in order to please God. (Psalm 19:14, Colossians 4:6)
 - The mature believer uses their tongue in a wholesome manner in order to bring healing, and comfort to others.
5. The Tongue can reveal the state of the Believers Heart. (Matthew 12:33-37)
- The believer's tongue will speak openly and outwardly from the abundance of the heart. (Matthew 12:33-37, Matthew 7:15-23)
 - The way we accomplish this task will always be our willingness to allow the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to bring us to a state of growth and maturity.