

Bringing Your Speech Under God's Control

James 3: 1-12

INTRODUCTION: What Is Your Experience With The Power of Words?

- ◇ Words can heal and comfort.
- ◇ Words can destroy a relationship.
- ◇ Words can cause great damage.
- ◇ Words can inflame or inspire a nation.
- ◇ Words can encourage or discourage.
- ◇ A tongue problem is really a heart problem. But God specializes in heart problems, giving every Christian a new heart—one that is alive to God and sensitive to His leading. Apart from God, no person can control the tongue, but with a new heart we can find a new strength to use our tongues to glorify God and to build up people around us. (Dr. James Galvin)

Reasons To Pursue God-Controlled Speech:

Reason #1: Your speech will influence the _____
_____. (vv.3-4)

- The tongue exists to reveal our hearts. (John Calvin)
- When our tongues let us down, it is because we have not first watched over our hearts and thoughts. (Alistair Begg)

Reason #2: Your speech will result in _____
_____. (vv. 5-8)

- If the Lord is not Lord of your social media, He is not Lord of your tongue. (see James 3:9) For many, the Twitter tongue is a fire as described by James. (Ed Stetzer)
- Your speech matters to God. So, be careful...be slow to speak!

Reason #3: Your speech reveals _____. (vv.9-12)

- The tongue is you in a unique way. It is a tattletale that tells on the heart and discloses the real person. (John MacArthur)
- James does not say that no one can tame the tongue, but no one of men; so that when it is tamed we confess that this is brought about by the pity, the help, the grace of God. (St. Augustine)

CONCLUSION: To Help Bring Our Speech Under God's Control:

- √ You can _____.
- √ Get in touch with the _____.
- √ Wait before _____.
- √ Treat everything we say as a gift to another person. Ask: are my words a gift that I truly want to leave in their hands?