



“Words” James 3:1-12

The quality and content of your words tell you a lot about your spiritual condition, the health of your soul. Most of the hurt in our lives have come from the words that we have spoken and the words that have been spoken to us. We live in a day and time of social media where words abound.

The Seriousness of Our Words vv1-2

- We will be judged for our words (works). v1; Matt12:36; 1Cor3:12-15
- To whom much is given, much is required. v1; Luke 12:48
- Control your words and you can control your whole life. V2

The Strength of Our Words vv3-8

- My words can powerfully direct my life and others. vv3-4; Pro23:7 (KJV), 18:21
- My words can powerfully destroy my life and others. vv5-6; Pro12:18; Eph4:29 T.H.I.N.K.
- My words powerfully display who I am. vv7-8; Matt12:34; Pro4:23, 20:5

People with...

Harsh words have an angry heart.

Negative words have a fearful heart.

Overactive words have an unsettled heart.

Boasting words have an insecure heart.

Filthy words have an impure heart.

Critical words have a bitter heart.

On the other hand, people with...

Encouraging and positive words have a happy heart.

Gentle and respectful words have a loving heart.

Humble and confident words have a gospel saturated heart.

The Sanctifying of Our Words vv9-12

- Confess and repent of your dual allegiances (competing gods). v9 Take the Tongue Test see Growing Notes
- Fill your heart with a joyful preoccupation with who God is and what He has done for you. V10; Matt12:34; Ps34:1
- Nothing will heal and overturn the earthly verdicts like the words from your Heavenly Father ringing in your soul: “You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased.”-(Luke 3:22) vv11-12

Growing Notes

- 1) Take the Tongue Test. For one week write these six things down and keep it with you.
 - ✓ Do not complain or grumble.
 - ✓ Do not boast about anything at all.
 - ✓ Do not gossip or repeat bad information about somebody else.
 - ✓ Do not run somebody down, even a little bit.
 - ✓ Do not defend or excuse yourself, no matter what.
 - ✓ Do always affirm other people.
- 2) The point of the test is until you come to grips with how hard it is, you don't realize what's really going on in your heart. How hard do you think this will be for you? What does this reveal about our struggle to really believe the Gospel? How does it reveal our spiritual condition and the health of our soul?
- 3) Read James 3:1-12. What stands out to you from this text? If a person were never at fault with their words, what would that say about that person (v2)? What similarity does a person's words have with a horse's bit, a ship's rudder and a spark of fire (vv3-5)? How does James describe the tongue (vv6-8)? How does James help us to resolve our word problem (vv9-12)?
- 4) Review the three major points and sub points along with Bible verses from sermon notes. What is most comforting to you? Most convicting to you? What is God speaking to you through this Bible study? Pray Psalm 139:23-24 and Psalm 19:14.