



INTRODUCTION

The man who has learned to tame the tongue has mastered the most difficult of member of his body. Controlling the tongue demonstrates great spiritual maturity (3:2). God desires that each of us would grow up spiritually and by His grace for His glory tame our tongue. He is about to reveal truths that every tongue owner ought to know.

THE _____ OF THE TONGUE

The ability to speak is one of the greatest powers God has given to man. Communicating with words is one of the distinguishing marks of human life. Clear, verbal communication is an awesome tool when used correctly, but speech also has its darker side.

A. It has the power to _____ (3:3-4)

Application: A bit and rudder both have the power to direct, so do our tongues. Our words directly affect the lives of others. We can guide others down the right path of life with right words. We can help others navigate through the tempestuous waters of life with wise words. Never under estimate the power of your words.

B. It has the power to _____ (3:5, 8)

Application: Our words have the potential to cause great damage like a wild fire that destroys the beauty of a forest or a poison that causes irreparable damage. Proverbs 18:21 states, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue". An unchecked tongue can assassinate a person's character, destroy a reputation, or even ruin a church.

C. It has the power to _____ (3:9)

Application: God gave us the ability to speak so that we would glorify Him and edify others with our words. We should endeavor to honor God and help others with our speech.

THE _____ OF THE TONGUE

A. The tongue _____ man's body (3:6)

- _____ tongue (Num. 11:1; I Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14)
- _____ tongue (Ps. 52:2; 64:3; Prov. 12:18; Eph. 4:29)
- _____ tongue (Ps. 34:13; Prov. 10:11; 15:1)
- _____ tongue (Ex. 20:7; Prov. 15:28; Col. 3:8; Jm. 3:10)
- _____ tongue (Prov. 27:2; Jer. 9:23-24)
- _____ tongue (Prov. 12:22; 19:9; Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9)

B. The tongue _____ man's control (3:7-8)

C. The tongue _____ man's heart (3:9-12)

THE _____ FOR THE TONGUE

Once we recognize our inability to master the tongue, we can realize God's ability to control it. Like a good doctor who not only diagnoses the problem but also dispenses the medicine, God supplies the antidote for our venomous tongue.

A. Ask God to change your _____

Application: It is only through the change He brings to the heart that the tongue can be tamed. When God changes your heart it will come out through your mouth.

B. Allow God to control your _____

Application: The tongue is controlled not through will-power, but through the Spirit's power. This means we must stop all attempts of self-control and surrender to God's control. Ask God to make your tongue a source of life rather than a source of destruction (Ps. 19:14; 141:3).

CONCLUSION

The tongue is a powerful tool that has been given to us by God. We are individually responsible for how we use our tongues, and one day we will meet God for what we have spoken here on earth (Mt. 12:36). Have you been complaining, criticizing, contentious, corrupt, conceited, or concealing with your tongue? Will you use your tongue to glorify God and edify others?



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