



- We can know what God desires for us and not be surrendered to **God's work** within us. 5 Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies." Isaiah 6:5

...the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these are what defile them. Matthew 15:18

- If Jesus is Lord of your **heart**, He must become Lord of your **mouth**.

...For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. Luke 6:45 (NIV)

1 Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. James 3:1-2

- Your tongue is one of the clearest places spiritual maturity becomes **visible**.

Truths about an uncontrolled tongue:

- The tongue reveals our **spiritual maturity**.

29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. Ephesians 4:29

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. James 3:3-6

- The tongue is **small**, but its power is **big**.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Proverbs 18:21

7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. James 3:7-8

- The tongue cannot be **tamed** by human effort.

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. Galatians 2:20

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. James 3:9-12

- An uncontrolled tongue exposes a **divided** heart.

18 But the words that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and it is those things that make a person unclean. Matthew 15:18

How do we fix the problem:(Action Steps)

- Ask God to **change** your **heart**.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

- Surrender your **heart and mouth** to God daily.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14

- Don't make **excuses** for an undisciplined tongue.

I said, 'I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth while in the presence of the wicked. Psalm 39:1

- Use your mouth to **build** the kingdom.

29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. Ephesians 4:29

- Let the Holy Spirit **govern** your mouth.

No human being can tame the tongue. James 3:8

Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What do our words reveal about the condition of our hearts?
- Why do you think James connects control of the tongue with spiritual maturity?
- When are you most likely to lose control of your words—when you're angry, hurt, tired, offended, or something else? Why?
- How have someone's words significantly affected your life—for better or worse?
- James says the tongue is small but powerful. What are some ways our words can redirect or damage a person's life?
- Why is trying harder not enough to tame the tongue? What role does the Holy Spirit play?
- James describes the contradiction of praising God while cursing people made in His image. Where do you see this contradiction in our culture—or in yourself?
- What kinds of excuses do we commonly make for unhealthy or destructive speech?
- What would it look like for Jesus to truly become Lord of your mouth—not just your heart?
- Which action step from the message is most challenging for you: changing your heart, surrendering daily, making no excuses, building others up, or letting the Spirit govern your mouth? Why?
- What would change in your relationships if you consistently prayed, "Lord, set a guard over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips" (Psalm 141:3)?

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Sunday, August 23rd, 2026