

# Taming your tongue!

## Spiritual Warfare

1. **"But the tongue no man can tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison,"** (James 3:8).

A. James is talking about the tongues of believers.

1. He is calling for the church to gain control of their tongues before they are destroyed by them!

a. You can nonchalantly drop a tidbit about a person.

b. Can affect their character, spirit and very integrity!

2. Great fires are caused by little sparks!

a. **"Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"**

James 3:5).

B. God knows that I never meant any harm, He knows my heart.

1. Whatever your motive, the damage is done. It may bring shame, disgrace and sorrow, or souls!

2. Can a unruly tongue really be that sinful?

a. The bible says gossip is a serious sin. Galatians 5:19-21

tells us **"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious, sexual**

**immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry a**

**witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, self**

**ambition, dissension's, factions and envy, drunkenne**

**orgies, and the Like. I warn you, as I did before, that the**

**who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."**

C. Indeed, many Christians right now are waging intense spiritual warfare against powerful habits such as drugs, alcohol, tobacco, lust. The don't see that an unruly tongue as being a very serious sin.

a. They war to get victory over a demonic stronghold. 1. the

But they can not see that the devil can use

loose tongues to steal souls and damage God's servants.

A. Dear Saint, I tell you, an untamed tongue is the world's deadliest weapon!

b. An unsanctified, loose tongue is worse than drug or alcohol abuse--it is worse than any sin of the flesh! The Bible calls the tongue a world of iniquity a defiler of multitudes, a tastes of hel

on earth! (James 3:6).

D. Sadly, every pastor is experiencing people in their congregations rising up in jealousy, division, slander against the Church of Jesus Christ.

a. The lack of respect of God's leaders and servants are at an all time low.

1. One small disagreement with a disgruntled saint can cause major splits at a secret swirl can began in the ministry.

A. There is no fear of God.

b. Jesus says, "**He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the (Holy) Spirit will not be forgiven**

Matthew 12:30,31, NIV

1. Be very careful about touching God's anointed!

E. Friend, when the spirits of jealousy, slander, gossip, division takes hold of any individual in your church and they try to get you caught up in it ... don't listen.

1. Listening to gossip, you are as guilty as the person who is slandering a brother or sister!

a. What does Jesus thinks about it?

2. The Bible says, "**Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.**" Rom

13:1,2, NIV.

a. Remember, "**Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covert all sins...Charity (love) suffereth long, and is kind,**" Prov. 10:12.

F. The word of God says that Christian citizenship obligates us to obey those in authority, (see Romans 13:1; Titus 3:1 and Hebrews 13:7).

1. The spiritual war is an extension of a Christian's struggle with sin, and evil in the world. The apostle James wrote:

a. "**What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come for your desires that battle within you? You want something and don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you spend what you get on your pleasure,**" James 4:1-3, NIV.

2. It is most important that you understand that Jesus is not going to wink at the sin of gossip when people are militating against His church, His people and established leadership.

a. The Word of God says: **"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye learned; and avoid them. For they are such Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple"**  
Romans 17,18.

3. Remember Gamaliel's advise in Acts 5: 38: **"And so my advice is, leave these men alone. If what they teach merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. But if it be of God, you will not be able to stop them, lest you yourselves fighting even against God."**

a. A study Acts 5:34-39, shows the wisdom of refraining from attack a person who is in God's service. It could cost lives  
**"Gamaliel, a doctor of the law said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men... For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves; who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after; he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him were dispersed."**

**And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone; for if this counsel or this work be of God, we cannot overthrow it: lest haply ye be found even to fight against God."**

II. When The Body Of Christ Turns Against Itself. Spiritual Aids.

1. True peace of heart and mind comes only when there is obedience to God's Word.

a. No matter how much time and money you may give to His work or to charitable organizations, how many meetings you attend, how many prayers you say or how many people pray for you, **GOD DEMANDS YOUR OBEDIENCE.**

1. His word gives the rules and, as with anything else, you go by them or you are out.
2. 1 Sam. 15:22, "**Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, for rebellion is as witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.**"
3. It is impossible to break God's laws of nature without reaping the effects.
  1. Unhappiness, bad health, mental tension, death and eternal separation from God are the results of breaking His spiritual law.
    - a. **"(God) will render to every man according to his deeds; to them who by patient continuance in doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but unto them that are contentious and do not obey the truth but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath. For there is no respect of persons with God," Rom 2:6-8.**
  2. The Christian, as well as the sinner, has to learn to obey God.
    - a. Nearly all the difficulties Christians suffer come from disobedience. If you have disobeyed, ask His forgiveness and then commence to **"Bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ,"** (2 Cor. 10:5)
 

Then declare: **"We will obey the voice of the Lord our God that it might go well with us and His blessing be upon us."**
1. Jesus **"became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him,"** (Heb. 5:9).
  - A. The body's immune system has been most often compared to army.
    1. Its foot soldiers are the antibodies sent forth in masse to combat specific diseases.
    - B. Sometimes though, orders get confused and the soldiers (antibodies) begin attacking their own friendly forces (healthy cells) instead of -or in addition to -- the enemy (bacteria, viruses)
      1. The result can be any of a group of illness known as auto-immune diseases.
- III. Auto immune disorders are characterized by illness brought on by the body's own immune system.
  - A. In most cases, the cause is unknown.
    1. but it is usually thought to be a combination of genetic traits and environmental factors, including viruses or certain drugs.

2. Four of the most common auto immune diseases are systemic lupus erthematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis, glomerulonephritis, and rheumatic heart disease.

a. SLE- Symptoms include pain and stiffness in the joints; a distinctive "butterfly" rash on the bridge of the nose and cheeks; and a sensitivity to light.

b. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) Attacks the immunoglobulin found in cells in the joints, eating away at surrounding muscle, tendons, ligaments, and blood vessels.

c. Rheumatic heart disease - arises from complications following strep throat. Strep germs began attacking tissue in heart and joints.

IV. The Body Of Christ is a figurative term referring to the whole community of Christians.

A. People are baptized into this body and take their appropriate places.

1. Each fulfilling a function without which the body cannot attain full life.

b. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service,"*

12:1.

B. An unruly, careless tongue negates everything spiritual in your life!

1. A loose tongue renders all religion absolutely worthless!

a. It can make your every spiritual activity totally useless in God's eyes:

b. **"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain,"** (James 1:26).

1. Notice James is speaking here of those "among you" --that is, in the church.

2. These aren't drug addicts or street people --they are part of the body of Christ who appear pious,

spiritual.

A. They are active in the work of the Lord.

B. But their tongues are unbridled, out of control!

3. This Scripture is written to Christians who seem holy, kind, gentle, loving, yet have acid tongues, always listening to and morsels of gossip.

a. They think nothing of murmuring and complaining.

1. God says their religion--all their show of spirituality -- is in vain. It's valueless, worthless!

3. I am speaking of Christians whose tongues have never been tamed.

1. They are habitual gossips, complainers, murmurers.
  - a. They speak against God's people without blinking an eye!
2. Here is what God says about such uncharitable tattlers:

a. **"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing"** (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

- b. All your spirituality, all your sacrificing, is rendered worthless because of an uncharitable, untamed

tongue!

C. Gossip (telling or listening) will keep us from abiding in God's presence.

1. The Greek word "**diabolos**," means slanderer.
  - a. Doesn't need's the facts, just slanders on suspicion.
  - b. The word devil translates as false accuser.
    1. The more we yield to these sins, the more we open ourselves to demonic activity.

D. Examine your heart and ask, "Where does this come from? There must still be something I haven't dealt with, or I wouldn't be saying such things.

- a. Why do I go on gossiping and badmouthing?
- b. Why do I utter such mean, careless Words?
- c. What unsanctified strongholds still hold my heart.

2. **"That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour."** 1. Thess. 4:4.

a. Walking in bitterness inside that comes out of your mouth is unkind, acid. All your works will have profited you nothing!"

b. **"Thou shalt not raise a false report; put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness."** Ex. 23:1.

1. **"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor,"** Ex. 20:16.

E. Satan is called in the Bible language "**the accuser of the brethren.**"

1. He is highly skilled and successful in the art of deception.
  - a. Add to this his cruelty and intense hatred of God, and you'll more fully realize the enemy we are facing.
2. As Satan discovers our weaknesses, he is able to effectively entice at the place where we are most vulnerable.

F. **"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rule of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"** (Ephesians 6:11-12).

1. There are times when Christians should "resist" the devil as James 4:7 instructs. He might come time and time again, but time the believer learns better how to resist him.

IV. The Words that you speak reflect what is in your heart!

A. **"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the temple of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."** 1 Cor. 3:16.

1. Jesus has made loose careless, evil talk and issue of the heart!
  - a. It is a life and death issue.

B. A careless tongue discounts all supposed spirituality.

1. It shows the heart is unclean, defiled.
2. Something of hellfire is smoldering inside.
  - a. Jesus gives this matter serious weight:
  - b. **"...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of**

**the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things,"** (Matt 12:34,35).

1. Jesus is saying, "If you are careless with your tongue --quarreling, complaining, murmuring, tattling --you have a serious heart problem!"

C. Your heart is not right with God, and it goes very deep.

1. There is an evil treasure stored up in you.
  - a. No Christian, or minister is exempt from this warning of the Lord!

1. "Check your heart--find out why you still speak unguardedly and carelessly!

a. **"Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?"** James 3:11).

2. Jealousy brings with it the spirit of murder.

a. They can't kill you so they'll try to kill your work for the Lord Jesus!

D. **"What! Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Ghost which is in you. Which ye have of God and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and your spirit, which are God's."**

a. Gossip - Slander - Lying - Tale bearing.

1. **"For there are six things the Lord hates - no, seven: haughtiness, lying, murdering, plotting evil, eagerness to do wrong, A false witness, sowing discord among brothers."** Pr. 6: 16-19.

2. **"But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth."** Col. 3:8.

3. **"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by the words thou shalt be justified, and by the words thou shalt be condemned."** Matt. 12: 36 -37.

IV. The Body of Christ

A. **"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."** Rom. 12: 4.

B. **"For the Body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ."** 1 Cor 10: 16.

1. **"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Savior of the body."** Eph. 5: 23.

2. **"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."** Col. 1: 18.

V. Wounded Body Result of Gossip

A. Gossip is the Spiritual Aids to the Body of Christ.

1. AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) is best known for producing an inability of the body's immune system to ward off infections.

B. There is no cure. Death results.

1. Death of a ministry...of a person's character...of a person's effectiveness in lives that may desperately need that particular person's spiritual ability.



2. It could mean spiritual death to the another person as well as the one that is attacked.
  - a. Spiritual Aids is carried rapidly from one person to another.
  - b. It mutates itself each time it is repeated.
- C. Spiritual Auto immune diseases (Spiritual Aids) are often hereditary:
  1. Certain people are more likely to inherit them from their family.
  2. However there are some things people can do to lower their risk of developing auto immune diseases:
    - a. Follow good spiritual habits that minimize spiritual and mental stress, and a nutritious diet (Word of God) to help strengthen the body's immune system.
- D. We must learn to speak life to the Body of Christ...which is its members.
  1. They will know we are Christians by our love-not our hate.
  2. Just as a witch can send spell, hexes and curses through the medium of words, so can the sweet Christian do great harm by negative words about a brother, sister or leader.
    - a. Satan picks up those words and they become a power tool in his hands to the Body of Christ.

#### VI. Power of Gossip Words.

- A. Where is the word that we are to speak? It is right in our mouth.
  1. **But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. See I have set before thee this day life and good, death and evil."** Deut. 30:14:15.
    - a. The word we speak is in our mouth. We can choose life and goodness, or death and evil... We have free choice.
    - b. **"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessings and cursings: therefore choose that both thou and thy seed my live."** Deut. 30:19.
      1. How do we choose?
        - A. By the Words of our mouth.
      2. **"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."** Prov. 18:21.
        - a. James 3:10 says that out of the same mouth proceeds blessing and curses, but this should not be.

b. We can bless with our mouth, and we can curse with the same mouth.

c. We can also receive a curse from others through power of an evil word spoken against us. You can also receive a curse through an imprecation - an evil word spoken against you.

B. Are you using your mouth to bless with your tongue, yet also curses?

a. **"Therewith (the tongue) bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be?"** James 3:9-10).

c. The Greek word for curse here means "To tear down, bring one down, denounce as evil."

1. And indeed, so often out of our mouths come praises to God, worship and blessing of Him -- but also evil gossip that tears down the reputation of His servants. Such loose talk tears down the body of Christ! It opposes the work of God!

3. We must ask God to forgive us... repent for negative words we have ever put on anyone living or dead.

a. It could be curse. We must change the way we speak; negative words should not take over our tongue.

b. Don't you think that the Holy Spirit wants you, His Temple, His Church, to have a good healthy body, free from sickness, curses, and all things negative?

1. What you say is oftentimes what you get; especially when you say it with the word is faith.

2. **"Thou shall also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee."** (Job 22:28.)

4. When God puts that word in your spirit and you say it, God will let it come into being because we belong to Jesus who bought us by shed Blood and His Spirit motivates us.

a. Likewise when we say negative words, the devils pick them up and try to bring them into force.

b. That's why even when a person is not present, and you gossip about them, the effects of those words are put into force in that person's life.

c. Helpless Christians sometimes do not know how to war these negative words off and they will effect their spiritual health.

1. **By the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony."** (Rev. 12:11).

V. On Judgment Day, we will have to answer for every careless, vain word we ever spoke!

1. **"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of Judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned,"** Matthew 12:36-37).

a. Our words do not fall to the ground and die, or vanish into thin air and dissolve into nothingness.

1. Our words live on--they do not die.

2. Every word you and I utter is recorded, written down in eternity and we will hear them all repeated to us verbatim at the judgment.

a. Those words will condemn us unless we confess them, forsaken them, and pull up the evil roots that caused us to utter them!

2. But I only told this gossip to one friend and he promises never to repeat it.

a. What you think is not justification for righteousness. We live by the Word of God.

2. When you plant something in someone else's mind, you can't pluck it out! Even if it is never repeated, it does not die there!

3.. Ask Jesus' warning to awakened the fear of God in you.

a. **"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned,"** (Matthew 12:37).

1. By our words!

VI. Will Christians continue with the sin of the tongue?

a. Repentance of this serious sin from all Christians that are engaged in it could bring revival to church!

1. This is more than gossiping all day and then saying a casual prayer of confession: "Lord, if I've said anything wrong today, forgive me, cover me with the blood of Jesus.

a. You must truly repent and tear the root of the evil out of your heart by changing your words.

b. You must contact the person or persons that you have slandered and gossiped about and ask for their forgiveness.

c. Then approach the people that you carried false reports to and tell them that you lied.

d. Ask them to forgive you.

e. Ask God to forgive you and put it under the Blood of Jesus.

2. Pray: "Father, my sin is covered by the blood of Jesus I fully acknowledge that I have sinned grievously. I allow the Holy Spirit to show me the legalistic pride. I allow Him to humble me and heal me. Now, whenever I begin to say something against somebody, I will do it in the Holy Ghost as I hear Him say, loud and clear, stop.

a. A Christian should be vigilant, on his guard,

1. **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"** (1 Peter 5:8, KJV)

b. Resist the works of the devil. "But **Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself,** (Daniel 1:8, KJV), "**Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make provision for the flesh, to gratify its desire,** (Romans 13 RSV).

c. Satan will have no power or influence over you if you will submit constantly to the dominion of Christ, to the authority and illumination of the Word God, to the discipline of prayer, to be involved with a dynamic group of Christian believers and submit to the authority of His church. This is what is meant by putting on **"whole armor of God that you may be able stand."**

V11. Control your own tongue or God must do it!

A. How can God expect you to bridle or control your tongue when His

a. Word says no man can do this? James 3:8.

b. Jesus tells us:

1. **"With men this impossible; but with God all things are possible,"** Matthew 19:26.

A. The Holy Spirit is our trainer.

B. **Isaiah prayed for a vision of God's holiness: He said, "... I saw..the Lord...upon a throne, high and lifted up..."** (Isaiah 6:1).

1. **"Worship in Spirit and in Truth.."** John 4:23, 24.

a. The greatest form of worship.

1) A life of holiness lived to please God.

A) All that we do and say should praise Him.

2. **"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker,"** Psalms 95:6.

a. Our lips prepare us to be used by God.

1) Worship Him.

A) There is no greater form of worship than a life lived to please Him who alone is worthy.

- C. Anyone who wants to live pleasing to the Lord must constantly go into His presence until he obtains a vision of God's holiness. 1.
- All healing, all true blessings, all victories begin at His
- a. Throne. That is where we see God in His holiness!
2. Isaiah was deeply convicted of having unclean lips when he appeared before the presence of God.
- a. **"Then said I, Woe is men! Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips...for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Host,"** vs. 5). **Lord**
3. Why did Isaiah cry out- **"I am a man of unclean lips"**?
- a. He had seen the King of Glory in His Holiness.
- b. He Knew he could not stand before Him because of his sin state.
- c. His holy countenance exposes everything that is unlike Him!
4. Isaiah allow the Lord to touch him and cleanse him with His holy Fire.
- a. "Then flew one of the seraphim's unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:
- b. **"And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged,"** vs. 6-7.
1. The Word of God is like fire.
2. The Holy Ghost is its Fire.
- a. Ask God to touch your tongue and sanctify it.
- b. Ask the Holy Ghost to put such conviction in you that each time you start to say something careless, unthinking or unkind, he will convict you.
5. **"I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. O magnify the Lord me, and let us exalt His name together.** Psalms 34: 1,3. **with**

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