

Dynamite in Your Dentures

James 3:1-12

Introduction

The tongue is a powerful tool that can build up or tear down. Once we understand the important role of the tongue, we still must learn through practice to employ it properly or else be faced with managing, recovering, or repairing the damage caused.

The Word says in James 3:2 that the tongue is so powerful that if we could control it, “we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way”. Just like a bit in the mouth of a horse can determine the entire direction in which a horse travels, the tongue, while smiling, can set the course for the individual to whom it belongs and those in their realm of influence as well. Your tongue is small but it can steer the course of your life.

The tongue has the power to destroy. The improper use of the tongue can bring destruction to you or to those around you. The key to understanding its potential devastation is in knowing that seemingly small actions by the tongue can grow to catastrophic consequences, which might not originally been intended but that cause damage none the less. While the tongue can be difficult to control, failure to do so can have dire consequences that can be devastating and almost impossible to repair.

The tongue also has the power to determine. While it’s true that the power of death lies within the improper use of the tongue, the power of life is available also should the tongue be utilized appropriately. Proverbs 18:21 speaks truth that words can kill or give life but that the result of poison or good fruit lies in the choice of the person who chooses the words he or she speaks. The tongue can be a tool for blessing or cursing. It can deliver messages that are sweet or bitter. This small tool can be used for good or for bad. The choice is up to you.

Getting Started

1. Do you have any special plans for this summer? Spend some time in your group discussing what you have going on in the upcoming weeks.
2. Did you attend Vacation Bible School? How did the principles presented by Bruce Wilkinson impact your thinking?

Let’s Get Personal

1. How do you typically use your tongue? How have you used your tongue to direct, destroy, or determine?
2. How have the words of others had an effect on your life?
3. Prior to today’s sermon, did you view the tongue properly and/or understand its power? Explain your answer based on how you typically use your tongue?

Take the Next Step

1. How will you use your tongue differently as you speak *about others* this week as a result of this week’s message?
2. How will you use your tongue differently going forward as you speak *about yourself*?
3. Has the use of your tongue already “set things ablaze” in your life or in the life of others? If you haven’t already shared your thoughts with your group, do so now and then spend time together lifting up those concerns in prayer.

Renew Your Mind

“...if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.” James 3:2
