



TAMING THE TONGUE!

No one can tame the tongue.

OVERVIEW:

The book of James discusses the tongue more than any other.....this seems appropriate since we seem to use a large segment of our time talking. The tongue can be your worst enemy! Your words, your dreams, and your thoughts have power to create conditions in your life. What you speak about, you can bring about. If you keep saying you can't stand your job, you might lose your job. If you keep saying you can't stand your body, your body can become sick. If you keep saying you can't stand your car, your car could be stolen or just stop operating. If you keep saying you're broke, guess what? You'll always be broke. If you keep saying you can't trust a man or trust a woman, you will always find someone in your life to hurt and betray you. If you keep saying you can't find a job, you will remain unemployed. If you keep saying you can't find someone to love you or believe in you, your very thought will attract more experiences to confirm your beliefs. If you keep talking about a divorce or break up in a relationship, then you might end up with it.

I'm not sure about you but I often find myself saying the wrong thing. I'm often much more comfortable expressing myself through the written word so that I have an opportunity to take some time and be thoughtful concerning the points I would like to make. Unfortunately, we don't always have that luxury in real-time conversation, and our emotions often take over.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: James 3:1-12 & Proverbs 18:21



—**Teaching point one:** James uses three images to illustrate that a small thing, like the tongue, can have far reaching effects.

What are the three images?

—**Teaching point two:** It shouldn't take a monumental effort to control your tongue.

If the Holy Spirit has control over your tongue it has control over what else?



—**Teaching point three:** The tongue is a mighty weapon. We often use it to destroy someone else on purpose or unintentionally.

When has a small little comment you made actually wreaked a bit of havoc with someone else?

—**Teaching point four:** Our tongue can destroy what we love and embarrass us greatly because it provides a method for others to view us.

What do you think can shape what other people think of you?

—**Teaching point five:** The tongue is inconsistent.....The words we utter often don't make sense.

What does the bible say lies in the power of the tongue?



—**Teaching point six:** If the solution to control the tongue is not a bridle and bit.....not a rudder

What do you think it is needed to control the tongue?

THINGS TO PONDER . . .

Turn your thoughts and conversations around to be more positive and power packed with faith, hope, love and action. Don't be afraid to believe that you can have what you want and deserve.

- Watch your thoughts, they become words.
- Watch your Words, they become actions.
- Watch your Actions, they become habits.
- Watch your Habits, they become character.
- Watch your Character, for it becomes your Destiny.