

Taking it Home:

1. Read James 3:9 very carefully: How can you learn not to be hypocritical in our speech? What are some methods to keep you from praising God with one side of your mouth while cursing people with the other side of your mouth? Pastor Matthew gave some very good practical steps to keep you from gossip, slander and destroying with your tongue:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____

2. This week challenge yourself to say words to people that “builds them up,” not “tears them down.” If you’ve been guilty of the sin of gossip, slander or other destructive uttering’s from your mouth, seek forgiveness from the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 1:9) and guard your tongue closely.

Prayer Requests:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Tame the Tongue

A tongue untamed is a destructive force reaking havoc in our lives.

Notes:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 3, 2010

James 3:1-12

Quick Review: The tongue is you in a unique way. It is a tattletale that tells on the heart and discloses the real person. Not only that, but misuse of the tongue is perhaps the easiest way to sin. Nowhere is the relationship between faith and works more evidenced than in a person's speech. What you are will inevitably be disclosed by what you say.

My Story

1. Think back to your childhood; are you still living with bad memories, possibly even to this day, that haunt you because of someone who spoke harshly to you or about you?

2. Dr. John MacArthur has stated, "A transformed nature will produce transformed behavior; and transformed behavior involves new speech, speech that corresponds to a saved and sanctified life which reflects the holy nature of the One who has given the new life." Can you see the change in your speech because of your transformed life?

A. If asked, would people who know you best say they have seen a transformed difference in your behavior, especially in what you say and how you say it?

Growing Deeper

1. The tongue has extraordinary power to control, but where does the tongue obtain its power? Jesus stated in Matthew 15:18, "what proceeds out of the mouth come from the heart." The word "heart" comes from the Greek word *kardia*; "The Scriptures attributed the heart to thoughts, reasonings, passion, desire, emotion and will." Are your passions, desires and will in alignment with the transformation of your heart through salvation? What would others who know you well say about your heart?

A. What a person thinks, reasons, has a passion for, desires, feels and follows will pour from their mouth. A born again believer has the Holy Spirit to guide his or her life (CF. 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19) and subsequently to demonstrate a genuine spiritual transformation. Look up the following Scriptures and interpret:
Matthew 12:34-37, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 5:1-4, Ephesians 5:19

2. James gives 3 very clear analogies of the destructive nature of the tongue. Look at 3:5, 6 and 8. List the 3 destructive natures of the tongue mentioned by the apostle James.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

If these analogies are not of God, why do so many Christians continue to allow their tongues to destroy others?

3. James states in 3:8, that no human being in his own power can tame the tongue. Even in believers, the tongue can easily slip out of its sanctified cage, as it were, and do great harm. What are some Scriptural methods to guard the tongue from its destructive nature & love others as Christ loved us? Read and interpret:
Psalms 141:3, Proverbs 10:20, Proverbs 15:1-2, 4, Proverbs 16:1
Matthew 22:37-39, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Philippians 4:8, 1 John 4:7-8