

A Revival Of Our Hearts (11 of 15)
“Taming The Tongue”
Cornerstone Church Of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
June 14, 2020

Big Idea: We need a revival in our hearts and homes that changes our lives.

“Come close to God, and God will come close to you.” **James 4:8a (NLT2)**

Remember Verse

“Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become **teachers** in the church, for we who teach will be **judged more strictly**. Indeed, **we all make many mistakes**. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.” **James 3:1-2 (NLT2)**

Three Reasons To Watch What We Say:

1. Our Tongue _____ Where We Go

“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can **turn** the whole animal.” **James 3:3 (NIV)**

“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.”

James 3:4 (NIV)

Notes: _____

2. Our Tongue Can _____ What We Have

“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**. The tongue also is a fire, **a world of evil** among the parts of the body. It **corrupts** the whole person, sets the whole **course of his life on fire**, and is itself set on fire by hell.”

James 3:5-6 (NIV)

“If you want to stay out of trouble, be careful what you say.” **Proverbs 21:23 (TEV)**

“All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but **no man can tame the tongue**. It is a **restless evil**, full of **deadly poison**.” **James 3:7-8 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. Our Tongue _____ Who We Are

“With the tongue we **praise** our Lord and Father, and with it we **curse** men, who have been **made in God's likeness**. Out of the same mouth come **praise and cursing**. My brothers, this should not be.” **James 3:9-10 (NIV)**

“Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.” **James 3:11-12 (NIV)**

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his **good life**, by deeds done in the **humility** that comes from wisdom. But if you **harbor bitter envy** and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast about it or **deny the truth**. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is **earthly, unspiritual, of the devil**. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find **disorder** and **every evil practice**.” **James 3:13-16 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

What Should We Do?

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all **pure**; then **peace-loving, considerate, submissive**, full of **mercy** and **good fruit, impartial** and **sincere**. **Peacemakers** who sow in peace raise a **harvest of righteousness**.”
James 3:17-18 (NIV)

"Everyone should be **quick to listen, slow to speak**, and **slow to become angry**."
James 1:19 (NIV)

Notes: _____

➤ **What do my words reveal about my faith?**

My next right step, I will:

- Confess and ask God to remove any bitterness and envy from my heart
- Listen and be considerate before I speak
- Create a climate of peace in my relationships
- Accept Jesus as my Savior and Lord

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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honor your group’s time commitment]

Open in Prayer:

- What thoughts from this week’s message encourage me to live like Jesus?

Icebreaker: What radio personality do you like for his/her uplifting words?
 Which radio personality do you appreciate?

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NIV Application Commentary:

The power of the tongue. According to James, the tongue has great potential, but it is unstable. With it we both praise God and vilify our neighbor ([3:9-10](#)). This is irrational, he says—and rightly so. It is also an accurate depiction of our lives as Christians. It is this irrational power of the tongue to cause evil that led Henri Frederick Amiel to write, "In order to see Christianity, one must forget almost all the Christians."

Three Reasons To Watch What We Say:

1. Our Tongue Directs Where We Go

Read James 3:1-4

Why is it such a big responsibility to be a teacher? Especially scripture?

What do the examples of bit, rudder and fire teach about the importance of watching what we say?

2. Our Tongue Can Destroy What We Have

Read James 3:5-8

How can our speech destroy what we have?

How do you feel about the rhyme, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?”

In light of verse 8, what hope do we have in controlling our tongues?

3. Our Tongue Displays Who We Are

Read James 3:9-12

In light of your everyday conversations, how seriously do you take verse 9 & 10?

Read James 3:13-16

According to these verses, is your household acting wise or unwise?

What Should We Do?

Read James 3:17-19

Which of these qualities do you need to develop in your life?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.

The MacArthur Study Bible. 3:17 wisdom from above.

pure. This refers to spiritual integrity and moral sincerity. Every genuine Christian has this kind of heart motivation (cf. Pss 24:3, 4; 51:7; Mt 5:8; Ro 7:22, 23; Heb 12:14).

peaceable. Means "peace loving" or "peace promoting" (cf. Mt 5:9).

gentle. This word is difficult to translate, but most nearly means a character trait of sweet reasonableness. Such a person will submit to all kinds of mistreatment and difficulty with an attitude of kind, courteous, patient humility, without any thought of hatred or revenge (cf. Mt 5:10, 11).

reasonable. The original term described someone who was teachable, compliant, easily persuaded, and who willingly submitted to military discipline or moral and legal standards. For believers, it defines obedience to God's standards (cf. Mt 5:3-5).

full of mercy. The gift of showing concern for those who suffer pain and hardship, and the ability to forgive quickly (cf. Mt 5:7; Ro 12:8).

without hypocrisy. The Gr. word occurs only here in the NT and denotes a consistent, unwavering person who is undivided in his commitment and conviction and does not make unfair distinctions (see 2:1-13 [notes]).

3:18 fruit is righteousness. Good works that result from salvation (cf. v. 17; Mt 5:6; see 2:14-20 [notes]; Gal 5:22 [note], 23 [note]; Php 1:11 [note]).

those who make peace. See v. 17 [note]. Righteousness flourishes in a climate of spiritual peace