

The Power of the Tongue

Proverbs 18:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

I. THE PROBLEM OF THE TONGUE

A. THE TONGUE IS A PROBLEM BECAUSE IT IS UNCONTROLLED

Psalm 34:13, "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile."

B. THE TONGUE IS A PROBLEM BECAUSE IT IS UNCONTROLLABLE

James 3:2-18, "² For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. ³ Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. ⁴ Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. ⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. ⁷ For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: ⁸ But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. ¹¹ Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? ¹² Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. ¹³ Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵ This

wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

C. YOU MUST ASK GOD TO HELP YOU CONTROL YOUR TONGUE

Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

Galatian 5:22-23, "²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

II. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

A. THE TONGUE HAS THE POWER TO DISCOURAGE

Numbers 32:5-7, "⁵ Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan. ⁶ And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here? ⁷ And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them?"

B. THE TONGUE HAS THE POWER TO DERAIL (I KINGS 13:8-26)

C. THE TONGUE HAS THE POWER TO DEFILE (JAMES 3:6)

D. THE TONGUE HAS THE POWER TO DESTROY (PROV. 18:21)

Proverbs 16:28, "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends."

E. THE TONGUE HAS THE POWER TO DELIGHT

Proverbs 25:11-13, "¹¹ A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. ¹² As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear. ¹³ As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters."