

# THE TONGUE

## THE NEGATIVE POWER OF THE TONGUE

Sticks and stones.... Is that a Bible verse? No, it isn't!

Prov. 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

Matt 12:34 For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Matt. 12:36-37 I tell you, on the day of judgment you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter; 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Matt 15:11 ... it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.

Psalms 139:4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

Eph 4:29 Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

## GOSSIP

Rom 14:4 Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own Lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

## CONTROLLING THE TONGUE

James 3:2 (NKJV) For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

James 3:3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4 Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell.

James 3:8 but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN. Rev. 12:10 For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

FATHER OF LIES John 8:44 You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Who do we want controlling our tongue? God or the enemy.

Joyce Meyers: Don't let the devil speak through you. ... Then you are working for him. ... Resign from that job!!

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin: To destroy somebody's good name is to commit a kind of murder.

Prov. 18:6-7 A fool's lips bring strife, and a fool's mouth invites a flogging. 7 The mouths of fools are their ruin, and their lips a snare to themselves.

Psalms 39:1 I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will keep a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence.

Winston Churchill: "By swallowing evil words, unsaid, no one has ever harmed his stomach."

## THE AWESOME GOOD POWER OF THE TONGUE

God spoke the world into existence.

God told Moses to speak to the rock.

Yeshua spoke and people were healed and the storm was stilled.

Yeshua spoke to the fig tree.

Rom 10:9 if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

## GOOD ABOUT THE TONGUE

Prov 12: 18b the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Prov. 12:25 Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word cheers it up.

Prov. 13:2 From the fruit of their words good persons eat good things,

Prov. 13:3 Those who guard their mouths preserve their lives; those who open wide their lips come to ruin

Prov 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Prov. 15:3 4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Prov. 16:24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Prov. 25: 11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

Eph 4:29 Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

I Thess 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,

I Thess 5:14 And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them.

How do we encourage people?

Psalms 71:15 My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all day long,

Psalms 35:28 Then my tongue shall tell of Your righteousness and of Your praise all day long.

Psalms 71:24 All day long my tongue will talk of Your righteous help,

Psalms 51:14 my tongue will sing aloud of Your deliverance.

Psalms 63:3 Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You.

Psalms 71:23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You;

Psalms 119:171 My lips will pour forth praise.

Psalms 71:8 My mouth is filled with Your praise, and with Your glory all day long.

So if a lady asks us if we like her dress and we don't, should we lie in such cases?

Eph. 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, .... 26 ... let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors,

(Cont.)

## SO, WHAT DO WE DO WHEN SOMEONE HURTS US WITH THEIR TONGUE?

Luke 23:34 Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

Remember we all stumble. They didn't really mean it. It was a quick reaction that they are sorry about now. We might have heard them wrong. "Did I hear you right? Did you say....?"

Remember all people are broken inside. Everybody has had bad things happen to them and need to be healed inside. So they are speaking out of their pain. They are also hurting from all the accusing of themselves the devil is saying to them in their minds. So, we need to pray for them, for the devil's lies to be silenced and for their inner pain to be healed.

Where does our confidence come from? From what people say about and to us or from God? Whose opinion really matters?

Where do their false accusations and lies about us come from? We don't fight flesh and blood, but principalities and powers of the devil:

Eph. 6:12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Eph 6:12 NIV For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Eph 6:12 CJB For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

What is really happening? The devil is trying  
to discourage us,  
to steal our joy,  
to pull us away from Yeshua,  
to get us to believe that we are no good, that Yeshua doesn't love us ....  
to tear us away from our friends,  
to get us to be angry, to get us to sin with our tongue.

[Bible version unless otherwise noted: NRSV]