

## TAMING THE TONGUE

**“Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 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.” (James 3:5-6)**

When failure occurs in the Christian race, it is often brought about by a “who” rather than a “what.” Many there have been that were deterred from “running the race with patience” because of “someone” rather than “something.”

It appears, then, that the devil has his emissaries in all things concerning the spiritual. “You did run well; *who* did hinder?”

In essence, when completely alone, the devil is powerless. The only way that the enemy can perform his evil deeds of killing, stealing, and destroying is by the enlistment of humans into his schemes. Clearly, without the aid of human agents who will cooperate with hell, evil’s plans cannot materialize.

James’ discourse in James 3:5-6 is a hard-hitting focus aimed directly at one of the devil’s most destructive tools – the human tongue. James states that “the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.” It is no mystery, therefore, why the devil desires to be in control of such a weapon.

Perhaps we should take notice of the human tongue as an instrument that can be used in either a good and profitable way or in a bad and destructive way. We should also recall that the initial sign of receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost is speaking in a language unknown to the repentant individual receiving the Spirit.

Why is that such an important sign? It is because when an individual is seeking God, the last element of resistance to God is their self-will. Once a seeker fully yields themselves to God, they allow the Spirit to express itself by being in control of the tongue.

The tongue (the inner man) is the last thing a person gives up to God, and, sadly, it's the first thing that they take back when carnality rules.

“If any man seems to be religious and bridleth not his own tongue, then that man's religion is vain (empty).” Thus, according to Scripture, the tongue is clearly an indicator of a man's religion or lack of it.

In contrast, Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life” therefore, the devil is the lostness, the lie, and the death. Since the gospel of Jesus Christ is based solely on Truth, then the message of hell is based on untruth! No wonder, then, that some “will believe a lie and be damned.” Beware, lest we become messengers of lies rather than proclaimers of the Truth!

What is slander? Slander is a pronounced verdict of “guilty” in the absence of the accused, behind closed doors, without trial, and without defense or appeal, made by a prejudiced and unfair judge.

We, who are all susceptible to the wiles of the devil, should pass any rumors, hearsay, and bad reports (gossip) through these three important filters before repeating them... (1) Is it true? (2) Is it necessary? And (3) Is it kind?

We all would do ourselves and those about us great benefit if we would ask ourselves those three questions before repeating such reports, lest we become a mere telegraph station on hell's information network!

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