

Weekly Summary: Faith Works On Words

Words hurt. And words help. As the Proverbs say, the tongue has the power of life and death, which is why James urges us to watch our words.

Homework Leading Into This Week: James 3:1-12

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

FaithWorks: **A Journey Through James**

Week 5: Faith Works On Words

- ❖ Proverbs 18:21 - The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
 - ◆ Words **shape** reality.

- ❖ James 3:1 - Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

- ❖ James 3:2 - We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

- ❖ James 3:3-5 - When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 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. 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.

- ❖ James 3:5-6 - 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 body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

- ❖ James 3:7-8 - All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

- ❖ James 3:9-10 - With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

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

- ❖ Luke 6:45 - A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.
 - ◆ Your words **reveal** what is in your heart.

 - ◆ What story are your **words** telling?

- ❖ Homework: Improving Your Vocabulary
 1. **Confess** to God
 2. **Apologize** to others
 3. Be filled with **grace** and **truth**

Points to Ponder

1. Have words spoken to you in your past shaped your present, for better or for worse? How have they shaped your life?
2. When have you used words that damage someone else? What is the effect?
3. Read James 3:3-6. Explain the power of words.
4. What do your words say about you? See also Proverbs 10:19, Proverbs 17:27, Psalm 19:14.
5. Read James 3:7-12. Why is it hard to control the words we use?
6. What would it look like to take responsibility for your words?
7. What steps will you take to improve your vocabulary?

Homework For Next Week: James 3:13-4:3

*"A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger."
~ Proverbs 15:1*

Worship Through Song at The CORE:

1. "Thrive" - by Casting Crowns
2. "By Faith" - by Keith & Kristyn Getty
3. "God With us" - by All Sons & Daughters
4. "10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)" - by Matt Redman