

The Tongue!

Psalm 12:1-8; James 3:1-6

- The controlled tongue is equated with wisdom. James 3:13-18
 - Some great orators: Abraham Lincoln (1809 –1865); Winston Churchill (1874 –1965); John F. Kennedy (1917 – 1963).
 - Wisdom and beauty. Psalm 23; Proverbs 2:12-15.
- The tongue out of control can bring damage. James 3:5 and following.
 - Solomon said, “Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles” (Proverbs 21:23).
 - James 1:26

Conclusion: James 1:19-25

—Charles Swindoll, Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life

“But the tongue is as volatile as it is vital. It was Washington Irving who first said, ‘A sharp tongue is the only edge tool that grows keener with constant use.’ It was James, the half brother of Jesus, who first warned: The tongue is a fire...a restless evil and full of deadly poison (James 3:6,8). Verbal cyanide. A lethal, relentless flaming missile which assaults with hellish power, blistering and destroying at will. And yet it doesn’t look anything like the brutal beast it is. Neatly hidden behind ivory palace gates, its movements are an intriguing study of coordination. It can curl itself either into a cheery whistle or manipulate a lazy, afternoon yawn. With no difficulty it can flick a husk of popcorn from between two jaw teeth or hold a thermometer just so. And it is tricky! It can help you enjoy the flavor of a stick of peppermint as it switches from side to side without once getting nipped. Moments later it can follow the directions of a trumpeter, allowing him to play ‘Flight of the Bumblebee’ without a single miscue. But watch out! Let your thumb get smashed with a hammer or your toe get clobbered on a chair and that slippery creature in your mouth will suddenly play the flip side of its nature.

1 Corinthians 13:1 "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal."