

# Ancient Truths 3: Tongue

November 20-21, 2021

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## Pray Like a Widow

**Father in Heaven**, I want You to know I have put my trust in You and Your Word.<sup>1</sup> You have my full attention. I'm looking and listening. I know I will have plenty.<sup>2</sup> You are my provider of food, life, health, and rest for my whole body. I am glad to say "You are my God" for I know You will not let me be put to shame. <sup>3</sup> Today, I am watching, waiting, and worshipping You. I lift my hands and my voice with thanksgiving and praise. You are my strength, my deliverer, and my salvation. Thank You for loving me. I want to say I love You, too. In Jesus' name, I pray. — Amen <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Proverbs 4:20-22; <sup>2</sup> Joel 2:26; <sup>3</sup> Psalm 31:14-17, 25:1-3, Romans 10:11; <sup>4</sup> Luke 20:45—21:6, John 14:13

## I. What's the Big Deal? They are Just WORDS!

**Psalm 57:4** (NIV) *David hiding in the caves* **4** I am in the midst of lions; I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

 Words as \_\_\_\_\_

"In nine times out of ten, the slanderous tongue belongs to a disappointed person." - George Bancroft, *U.S. Historian*

**Proverbs 18:21** (NIV) **21** The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

 Words of \_\_\_\_\_

"The best time to hold your tongue is the time you feel you must say something or bust." - Josh Billings, *19<sup>th</sup> Century Humorist*


## II. Foot-in-Mouth Disease vs. What the Doctor Ordered

**Proverbs 12:18** (NIV) **18** The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the **tongue of the wise** brings healing.

**Proverbs 15:2** (NIV) **2** The **tongue of the wise** adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.

**Proverbs 15:4** (NIV) **21** The **soothing tongue** is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

**James 1:26-27** (NIV) **26** Those who consider themselves **religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.** **27** Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

 \_\_\_\_\_ is the best we can hope to do in our strength

**James 3:4-6, 8** (NIV) **4** 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. **5** 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. **6** 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... **8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (*Ref Matthew 12:36*)

## III. The Cross is the Cure

**1 Peter 2:21–24** (NIV) **21** To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. **22** "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." **23** When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. **24** "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Father, forgive me for not giving You my tongue. Heal my broken heart and tongue. Teach me to bless and heal with words of wisdom and life. In Jesus' name. — Amen

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**This Week's Bible Readings (Use the TCND App if you want to listen):**

Sat Rest  Sun Eph 4-6  Mon Phil 1-2  Tue Phil 3-4

Wed Col 1-2  Thur Col 3-4  Fri 1 Thess 1-3  Sat Rest

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