

Part 3 – September 23, 2018 Pastor Shannon Chapman

The words we speak are incredibly powerful! They can build up, encourage, motivate or tear down, hurt, and cause horrible scars. It's time we understand the words we speak carry power.

Words of <u>Life</u> -----Words of <u>Death</u>

Proverbs 18:20-21, From the fruit of their mouth a person's stomach is filled; with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied. The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Listen More
Talk <u>Less</u>
Calm Down

James 1:19, My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

James 1:20, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

James 1:21, Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Words Shape Us

- Words are not equally weighted.
- The <u>source</u> is not equally weighted.
- The recovery time is not equally weighted.

The Mighty Tongue

The **Intrinsic** Power of the Tongue

James 3:3-5a, 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.

Control the Mouth - Control the Body

Small Part – Big Influence

Never doubt the power of the "tiny" tongue, but also, never underestimate it.

The **Destructive** Power of the Tongue

James 3:5b-6, 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.

A mere spark of an ill-spoken word can produce a firestorm and can destroy everything it touches.

The effect of the tongue's cosmic wickedness will "stain" the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life.

As your words go, so goes your relationships.

The **Uncontrollable** Power of the Tongue

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.

The uncontrolled tongue is deadly!

Verbal venom, such as slander and criticism, does the work before the victim can react.

The **Revealing** Power of the Tongue

James 3:9-12, 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. 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.

James' point is that whatever comes out of the mouth unfailingly reveals what is on the inside.

The tongue can fuel our lives like a fiery furnace, or it can cool our lives with the soothing wind of the Spirit.

Not Tamed but Guided

Remember | Surrender | Admit