

February 11, 2018  
MOVE – Part 3

## **“Taming the Tongue”**

**Words are powerful, and the Bible deeply affirms this, right from the start.**

**Genesis 1:1** (NIV): “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

**Genesis 1:3-4** (NIV): “<sup>3</sup>And God *said*, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good....” (*emphasis added*)

**The Bible says God spoke “light” into existence and it “was good.”**

**Satan, as the serpent, also speaks.**

**Genesis 3:1** (NIV): “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?’”

**Genesis 3:4-5** (NIV): “<sup>4</sup>‘You will not surely die,’ the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”

**Words are important and powerful, and they can be used for good but also for evil.**

**James 1:19-20** (NIV): “<sup>19</sup>My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup>for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.”

**James 1:26** (NIV): “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.”

**James 3:1** (NIV): “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

**Teaching God’s Word is so important for people coming to faith and living it.**

**Romans 10:14** (NIV): “How, then, can they call on the [Lord] they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”

**Jesus:** “<sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you....” (**Matthew 28:19-20** NIV)

**Jesus calls all his disciples to teach, maybe not to a large group, but to anyone we encounter who needs to know about him and salvation.**

**James 3:2 (NIV):** “We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.”

**As a person moves toward spiritual maturity, he becomes better able to allow God to control him.**

**James 3:3-5 (NIV):** “<sup>3</sup>When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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.”

**Proverbs 16:27 (ESV):** “A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.”

**James 3:6 (NIV):** “The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”

**The “tongue” can corrupt “the whole person,” because what we say often sets us on a course that affects our lives profoundly.**

*Gehenna (Greek) = “hell”*

**James 3:7-10 (NIV):** “<sup>7</sup>All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, <sup>8</sup>but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. <sup>10</sup>Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.”

**When we curse another person, we need to remember that, just as God created us and loves us, He also created that person and loves them.**

**James 3:11-12 (NIV):** “<sup>11</sup>Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? <sup>12</sup>My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

**Mark 7:18-23 (NIV):** “<sup>18</sup>...Don’t you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him “unclean”? <sup>19</sup>For it doesn’t go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body.’ (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods ‘clean.’) <sup>20</sup>[Jesus] went on: ‘What comes out of a man is what makes him “unclean.” <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of

men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup>greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evils come from inside and make a man "unclean."""

**The "tongue" is ultimately an instrument of the heart.**

**Jesus:** ""A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart."" (Luke 6:45 NLT)

**Evil doesn't have the final *word* - God does!**

**Genesis 3:14-15** (NLT): ""<sup>14</sup>Then the LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live. <sup>15</sup>And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'""

**Galatians 4:4-5** (ESV): ""<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.""

**The death that comes from our sinful words and heart has been overcome by Jesus, the Word of God.**

**John 1:1,14** (NIV): ""<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.""

**James 1:18** (NIV): "[God the Father] chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created."

**When Jesus returns, he will have the last word, for we will be children of God forever.**

**Revelation 21:5-7** (NIV): ""<sup>5</sup>He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these *words* are trustworthy and true.' <sup>6</sup>He said to me: 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup>He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.'"" (*emphasis added*)

We have been commissioned by Jesus to tell this Good News to others, to invite them to experience the true Word of God who can transform any heart.

**Week 3 Memory Verse**

**James 2:26 (NIV): “As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”**

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