

Faith That Works

Pt.5 – Faith You Can Hear

Principle: My words can invalidate my faith.

Jam. 1:26 **If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.**

The truth about my words:

I will be judged for my words.

Jam. 3:1 **Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.**

Matt. 12:36 **But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”**

My words can hurt me.

Jam. 3:2 **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. ³When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or 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. ⁵Likewise 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 ⁶The 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.**

My words determine the direction of my life.

My words reveal my spiritual condition.

Jam. 3:9 **With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt¹ water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.**

Matt. 12:34 **...For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.**

Faith that works:

Produces humble speech.

Jam. 4:16 **As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.**

Jam. 4:14 **What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes ¹⁵If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.**

Does not fuel complaining conversations.

Jam. 5:9 **Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged.**

I need God's help to control my words.

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

Is faith I can hear.

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