

better together ~ Part 4

If you can tame your tongue, you can master anything in your life.

¹ Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

³ We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. ⁴ And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. ⁵ In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.

⁶ And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

⁷ People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. ¹⁰ And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

¹¹ Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? ¹² Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring. James 3:1-12 NLT

1. My tongue _____ . vs. 3-4
2. My tongue _____ . vs. 5-6
3. My tongue _____ . vs. 11-12

For out of the fullness (the overflow, the superabundance) of the heart the mouth speaks. Matthew 12:34 AMP

HOW TO TAME YOUR TONGUE...

1. Use my tongue _____ .
2. Use my tongue _____ .

Do not let unwholesome [foul, profane, worthless, vulgar] words ever come out of your mouth, but only such speech as is good for building up others, according to the need and the occasion, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear [you speak]. Eph. 4:29 (AMP)

3. Renew _____ .
Ezekiel 36:26, Psalm 51:10, 1 Peter 1:22, James 4:8

Journey Group Discussion

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

We made a very bold statement (that James made).

If you can tame your tongue, you can master anything in your life.

What is your reaction to that statement?

Read James 3:1-12. James said at least the following three things about the power of the tongue:

1. My tongue determines my direction. (James 3:3-4)
What are some things you say that can determine your direction in life either positively or negatively?
2. My tongue can build up or burn down. (James 3:5-6)
Share some examples of both positive and negative things that were said in your past that have echoed into your present.
3. My tongue displays my character. (James 3:11-12)
For out of the fullness (the overflow, the superabundance) of the heart the mouth speaks. Matthew 12:34 AMP
How would you think your heart would be evaluated in light of the things that often come out of your mouth? Would those close to you agree with your assessment?

HOW TO TAME YOUR TONGUE...

1. Use my tongue to speak God's truth to myself.
Share what is or could be a "Gut Talk" declaration for you.
2. Use my tongue to repair and rebuild.
Read Ephesians 4:29. Give some positive and negative examples of speech this passage talks about.
3. Renew my heart.
Read Ezekiel 36:26, Psalm 51:10, 1 Peter 1:22, James 4:8
How are obedience and repentance tied to heart renewal?
What steps can you take to renew your heart today?