

“Faith Functioning When Feeling Mouthy”

Functional Faith—Part 6

October 23, 2022

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...”

A WORD FOR TEACHERS:

James 3:1-2 - “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ²We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.”

(Reference: I Corinthians 9:26-27)

WHY WE MUST WATCH WHAT WE SAY:

1. Our tongue can _____ the direction of our lives.

James 3:3-4 - “When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 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.”

2. Our tongue can _____ what we have.

James 3:5-6 - “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.”

3. Our words can _____ who we really are.

James 3:9-10 - "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be."

James 3:11-12 - "Can both fresh water and saltwater flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."

(Reference: Luke 6:45)

THE SOLUTION TO CONTROLLING OUR TONGUE:

1. Seek a _____.

(Reference: Ezekiel 18:31; II Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 51:10)

2. Ask God for _____ every day.

(Reference: James 3:7-8; Psalm 141:3)