

TRUE VINE MINISTRIES BIBLE STUDY ALIVE

Zoom Edition

Working the Word

Taming the Tongue

James 1:19-20, 26; 3:2-12

Words are potent. They have the power to heal and the power to hurt. The power to give hope and the power to discourage. The power to build up and the power to tear down. There is no marriage, family, or other relationship that isn't either strengthened or weakened by the words you use.

Yet controlling what we say from moment to moment is perhaps the most daunting challenge of Christian living. It's the closest most of us will ever come to trying to tame a wild beast.



The Bible teaches the power of words. In James, chapter 3, James uses three illustrations of very strong and large things: a horse, a ship, and a fire. How do you control a horse or a ship? James says, with a small bit in the horse's mouth, or with a little rudder. How do you start a fire? With a little flame or even a spark. James says that the tongue and words are like that. The tongue is a little member, something we often do not think about, but just a few words can change the course of history.

How do I tame my tongue? There are three ways. First, I must pray for a clean heart. Second, I must submit to the Holy Spirit. Third, I must guard my thoughts.

Words themselves are not evil. They do have a great *potential* to cause harm. But, oh, what good can be accomplished simply with words. Not only must we repent of evil speaking, but we must put on the new man and speak that which is good to the use of edifying (Eph. 4). We must love our neighbor with our words. Just think of the power of words for good. Think of the power of God's words to us. He speaks the gospel, good news. And that good news, that gospel, is a power that saves. He speaks truth, and that truth transforms us. God equips the believer to use similar words in similarly powerful ways.

Conclusion

It's important to realize that it's impossible to tame the tongue in our own strength. "*But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.*" (James 3:8) In Christ, however, ALL things are possible!

Take time today and start practicing these ways to tame the tongue, and let's give God the glory because (with His help) we will start to tame the tongue!