

A TIME TO SPEAK UP

The Importance of the Tongue (James 3:3-11)

Verse

5	Tongue	A Small Part	Accomplishes
3	Bridle Bit	A small part on the horse	Turns the whole body of the horse
4	Rudder	A small part of a ship	Turn the whole ship where the pilot wants to go
5	Fire	A small thing in a forest	Forest fire whether devastating or minor
Description of tongue: Boasts (3:5), Defiles (3:6), Evil (3:8), Poison (3:8), Cursing (3:9), Bitter (3:11)			

This thing is powerful. Why not use it to promote good, not bad.

1. The word "tongue" means "what we say or how we speak". What should we use our mouth for? What should be the purpose of our speech?

a. Psalm 49:3 "My mouth shall speak _____."

- Yes No During the relationships of your day, do you talk about God much?
 Yes No Do you use your words to help someone get through the day?
 Yes No Do you use your words to prove what a tough guy you are?
 Yes No When you talk, do you make sure they feel like crap when you're done?

b. Ps. 119:172 "My tongue shall speak of Your _____."

- Yes No Do you talk about things that are true & reliable in life?
 Yes No Do you tell people where to find help in their times of need?
 Yes No Do you talk about much you know without any religious help?
 Yes No Do you make fun of anything about God and what He has to say?

c. Psalm 145:6 "I will declare Your _____."

- Yes No Do you talk about the hopelessness in the world all the time?
 Yes No Do you waste time thinking about all the good politics will do for us?
 Yes No Do you give credit to everybody & everything, but not to God?
 Yes No Do you reject the existence of God & share that stupidity with others?

d. Proverbs 8:6 "I will speak of _____ things."

- Yes No Are your words continually filled with filth & vulgarity?
 Yes No Do you try to intimidate people with offensive threats & rudeness?
 Yes No Do you talk about clean and positive things that would please people?
 Yes No After you talk, do you feel good about the words you used?

e. Ecc. 3:7 "A time to keep _____, and a time to _____."

- Yes No Do you always feel you have to give your opinion to others?
 Yes No Do you constantly tell hurting people that you know how they feel?
 Yes No Are there times when you say nothing & just sit by someone in pain?
 Yes No Are there times when you admit that you do not know what to say?
 Yes No Do you ever tell someone not to worry, don't cry, and move on?
 Yes No Have you ever held a hand, sat nearby, or just cried with them?
 Yes No Do you remember a time when you wished you had not said it?

f. James 1:19 "Let every man be swift to hear, _____ to _____."

Yes No

Do you just have motor mouth and have to fill the air with your words?

Yes No

Have you ever paused and realized that no words of yours will help?

Yes No

Has anyone ever thanked you for listening instead of talking?

Yes No

Are you very good at listening?

g. James 4:11 "Do not _____ of another person."

Yes No

Have you spent a good portion of your life talking bad about people?

Yes No

Have you ever stopped to consider the feelings you hurt with your words?

Yes No

Is it possible that bad-mouthing someone makes you feel better?

Yes No

Can a person improve if all they hear from you is "loser" or "stupid"?

2. What do these verses tell us about our speech?

a. Ephesians 4:19 _____

b. Colossians 4:6 _____

c. James 1:26 _____

d. Proverbs 12:18 _____

3. Match the verses with the statement about our speech?

a. Proverbs 15:1-2 A good word of encouragement drives away depression.

b. Psalm 17:27 A soft, calm answer turns away anger.

c. Proverbs 19:14 The contents of our speech comes from our hearts.

d. Proverbs 21:23 Our talk needs to be acceptable to God at all times.

e. Proverbs 12:25 Using wise words keeps us out of trouble.

f. Psalm 19:14 A wise man uses few words.

4. How do you respond when someone offends you or is rude to you?

5. How do you respond when you are accused of something?

6. What tone do you have in your speech when you are losing an argument?

7. What would cause you to shout in a conversation with someone?

8. When in a heated conversation or argument with someone, why do we need to attack their character, call them names, and use profanity?

9. What do you need to do when you are arguing with someone and you are right but the other person thinks they are right? _____
