

Women of Courage
May 18, 2021
“Taming the Tongue”

James 3:1-12 – ESV – Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. (2) For we all stumble (offend) in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble (offend) in what he says, he is a perfect (complete) man, able also to bridle his whole body. (3) If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. (4) Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. (5) So, also the tongue is a small member, yet it boast of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! (6) And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. (7) For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, (8) but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil (dysfunction) full of deadly poison. (9) With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the image and likeness of Jehovah. (10) From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. This is not right! (11) Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? (12) Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs. Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Proverbs 18:21 – The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Psalms 52:2 – You who practice deceit, your tongue plots destruction, it is like a sharpened razor.

James 1:26 – Those who consider themselves religious (believers) and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues, deceive themselves and their religion (faith) is worthless.

1 Peter 3:10 – For, “whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil (dysfunction) and their lips from deceitful speech”.

James 4: 1-5 – What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? (2) You desire but do not have, so

you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask Jehovah. (3) When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your own pleasures. (4) You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against Jehovah? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of Jehovah. (5) or do you think scripture says without reason that he longs for the Spirit (mind) he has cause to dwell in us?

ESV – (5) He yearns jealously over the spirit (mind, word) that he has made to dwell in us.

NLT – (5) Do you think the scriptures have no meaning? They say that Jehovah is passionate that the spirit (mind) he has placed in us should be faithful to him.

The mind placed in us. The Father not wanting us to be divided in ourselves. Producing wrong conduct in word or deed. Saying wrong things against our brother or sister. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways (James 1:8).

Unstable – “Dubious” – wavering, or fluctuating in opinion, not settled, not determined.

Our words can either build up or tear down. In everyday conversation, are we careful and do we pay attention to what we are entering in to. Are we saying things we should not say. We are to be uplifters, seasoned with the word of Jehovah. To always give life and not death. To encourage and not destroy. Speaking in love always so people know whose image I am created in. So, they also can know who they were created to be. Always showing Jesus. The image of the one true Father. Conduct and Character.