

## Proclaiming Your Future

### The Tongue's Amazing Facts

Here is a reminder: our last 3 titles were:

- Every word has significance.
  1. So our words connect us to God and our words connect us to each other.
- There is wealth at the tip of your tongue.
  - We realized all our words cost.

Our words are valuable all the time.

They can hurt or encourage.

- Then we talked about 10 sins of the tongue.

Today: James 3:1-12

2. Your tongue was created with amazing purpose.

#### **James 3:1a**

<sup>1</sup> My brethren, let not many of you become teachers...

#### **James 3:1b**

<sup>1</sup> ... knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

### James 3:2a

<sup>2</sup>For we all stumble in many things...

### James 3:2b

<sup>2</sup>... If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man...

Want to be perfect? Watch your words.

### James 3:2c

<sup>2</sup>... (he is) able also to bridle the whole body.

3. If you are able to bridle your tongue, you can control your whole body.

Question: Do you have any difficulty with your body?

Body is:

- Your appetite
- Lust
- Pain

Solution: Control your tongue, you will control your body.

The tongue's first amazing fact:

- The tongue is disproportionately powerful

### James 3:3

### James 3:4

<sup>4</sup>Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds (analogy is a storm), they are turned by a very small rudder (the tongue) wherever the pilot (Holy Spirit) desires.

## James 3:5

James is trying to tell us something.

4. The tongue is disproportionately **powerful**.
5. The tongue is real small, but the influence is **greater** than any other **member** in your body.

James gives 3 analogies regarding how small the tongue is, but powerful:

A. The **bit** or **bridle** in a horse's mouth

- Your tongue controls your **strength** and the **direction** you go.

There is no **specific** purpose or direction and is just **running around**.

- This is what a person is like with an **unbridled** tongue.
6. If you don't **bridle** your tongue, you will never have the **purpose** God has for you; you will not get anywhere and will not be able to **accomplish** the call of God – that's the analogy.

## James 1:26a

<sup>26</sup> If anyone among you thinks he is religious...

Religious – this word in the Greek means, “**serving** God”

## James 1:26b

<sup>26</sup> ...and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

The second analogy is:

B. The **rudder** on a ship.

Have you ever seen a ship and how big it is, but the rudder is so small.

The Titanic was: **882** feet in length, **92** feet wide, and it weighted **46,328** tons.

The length of the rudder was **15** feet, **3** inches. The height was **78** feet, **8** inches

7. The tongue is so **small** but it is actually what controls the **direction** of your life.
8. The reason some **capsize** during a storm in their life is because of their **mouth**.

### **Ephesians 4:14 (NLT)**

<sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

Here is the third analogy to show how disproportionately the tongue is powerful:

C. A little **spark** that starts a forest fire.

9. Many don't **comprehend** the devastation the tongue brings because all we see is a little **spark**.

Here is the second amazing fact of the tongue:

- The tongue is **inherently evil**.

## James 3:6

- \* In the fact I gave you, I didn't say the tongue is evil.

Inherently says:

- You were born with an evil tongue.

Say it this way: the default setting of your tongue is set to destroy if you don't change the setting.

- \* You don't have to teach your children to be mean, you have to teach them to be nice. They are born with an evil tongue.
- \* The tongue will say evil things if you don't do something about it.

Here is the third amazing fact about the tongue:

- The tongue is humanly untamable

## James 3:7-8

Saying the tongue is humanly untamable

Here is the good news!

10. God can tame the tongue.

- See the tongue is tamable, but it can be tamed divinely.
  - Has anyone here finally realized without God, you can't tame your tongue?

## Exodus 4:10

<sup>10</sup>Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent (or have a **tamed** tongue), neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I *am* slow of speech and slow of tongue."

## Exodus 4:11-12

This is the best news in this series – God can be **with** our mouth

11. **You** can't tame your tongue, but your part is to **submit** your tongue to God.

Here is the fourth fact of the tongue:

- The tongue is contrastingly **productive**

## James 3:9-12

- \* There is no tree that can bear **two** kinds of fruit – if it happens, it's **unnatural**.

12. The tongue is so **unique**, it can produce blessings and cursings – it's **unnatural** for a believer.

- Life and death are in the power of the **tongue**.

Let me get to some good news:

13. Yes, death is in the power of the tongue, but the **life** you need in your **walk** on this earth is in your tongue.

The life your **child** needs is in your tongue.

Don't curse your child with **negativity**.

Say – I have a **strong-willed** child and if you read the Bible, the apostles were strong-willed people. One day, I have a child that's so strong-willed, he can reach the whole world for **Jesus**.

Let God **occupy** your mouth and be a **blessing** – reach your **destiny**.

Stop speaking **death** and speak **life**.