

Introduction:

- In 2013 we did a Positivity Feast. With the purpose to remove from our thinking negative thoughts and speech that lead to doubt and unbelief. It was to challenge us to let go of our pet devils (my arthritis, my bad back, my allergies, etc.) It was about bringing a Kingdom culture (the culture of heaven) into our thought lives. Empowering our Words and Igniting our Faith!
 - Those 40 days were about bringing the (culture/atmosphere/ways) of heaven into the earth.
 - We identified doubt and unbelief as 'wet words' (that create soggy faith), realized they must be uprooted and we chose to plant something else in its place.
- Read James 3.

I. The Perfect Man

- A. God created man perfect. He was without flaw. He was made in the image of God.
1. The man that was created was given authority. He was to subdue and to take dominion.
 2. The man that was created was also to be creative. He is made in the image of God.
 3. God used words to create. Words are the basic fundamental authority of God. In His Kingdom He uses Words. (Centurion - Great faith)
 - a) In fact, words are the weapons and ordinances of the Kingdom.
 - b) We are given the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Eph 6:17
 - c) So if words are the fundamental authority of God, that puts Satan on notice right away because he is at a huge disadvantage. LIFE REIGNS OVER DEATH!!!
 4. God has given man access to His word and the New Creation man takes the Word of God (the Bible) and receives it as his operator's manual. Ie. A new car, vacuum, computer all come with operators manual. It tells us how things work. James 3 capitalizes on this by telling us about the power of our words.
- B. James gives us the description of the perfect man: This is what we are after, right?
1. Does not stumble in what he says.
 2. Is able to control his whole body.
 3. *"Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way." (James 3:2, NLT)*
 4. *"We all fail in many areas, but especially with our words. Yet if we're able to bridle the words we say we are powerful enough to control ourselves in every way, and that means our character is mature and fully developed." (James 3:2, TPT)*
 5. Sounds like Jesus to me. Perfect man, impeccable self control.
- C. James describes the power of the tongue:
1. Like a bit in a horse's mouth. Huge horse controlled by such a small thing. Steered by bit.
 2. Like a rudder on a ship. Big ship controlled by a small rudder. Steered by rudder.
 3. Like a tongue in a mouth. Big person small piece of flesh controls the whole man. Controls the whole man. The man is steered by his tongue.

II. The Tongue of Two Systems

- A. The two systems at work are heaven and hell, God and Satan, New Creation and world.
- B. James makes two powerful observations.

1. The tongue has the power to turn things around. I.e. bit, rudder, tongue.
 2. The entire course of nature (vs 6) is controlled with the human tongue.
 - a) The entire course of nature.
 - b) The word course means a series of related events. *"An ordered series of events, involving repeated patterns."* Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 609). New York: United Bible Societies. The course of nature, the course of your life, the course of your family, etc.
- C. The same tongue works in both worlds or systems.
1. For Good:
 - a) I.E. Nehemiah lead the people of Judah to confess the word (chapter 9). Took most of the day and then they signed off on it. They were agreeing with God.
 - b) Jesus at Cana of Galilee. His mom, *"Do whatever He says."*
 2. For evil:
 - a) vs 5 the tongue is like 'kindling'. It is small little stuff, on the bottom of a fire. But it causes the big logs to burn. Hell does this. I.E. World wars are started with words. Riots in cities start with words.
 - b) Proverbs 18:21 *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."* ESV. For either death or life. You choose which will bear fruit.
 3. Notice that hell operates in the world by the tongue. It burns up everything! The worldly tongue starts fires, burn up every thing it can. I.E. All it takes is a spark to get things going.
 4. BUT LOOK! The shield of faith will quench all the fiery darts of the enemy. Faith quenches the lies the enemy sends at you. (Eph 6:16)
 - a) In the beginning was the Word! Word was with God and Word was God. Life!
 - b) *"...For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart."*
 - c) *And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.*
 - d) *The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you."* (Matthew 12:34-37, NLT)
 - (1) By your words you are justified, you are acquitted. (Not by prayer or fasting, but by words)
 - (2) By your words you are condemned.
- D. The power of idle words. Jesus said, "Every idle words that proceed from your mouth will be judged." When is it judged? Immediately! Those responsible to bring it to pass act on it–ASAP. Satan and demons, or Christ and His angels. Life and death are activated.
1. Words defile. Hell sets the tongue on fire and the tongue stars burning everything else.
 2. James says the tongue is poison in this realm. Choose carefully what you say.
 3. Words give life. John 6:63

III. Choose Which World To Activate

- A. The problem most people have is double mindedness. We operate in both world. This is why James brings up verses 8-12, salt and fresh water. If you are bringing up both you are

double minded. He can't receive anything.

- B. God, by your Spirit, help me to end all corrupt communication coming out of my mouth. Help me to guard my mouth in what I say. I do not want my life 'set on fire' by hell.
- C. Jesus in Luke 4 used the Word to combat the devil. *"It is written."*
 - 1. We are to do the same.
 - 2. Knowing that Satan comes immediately to take away the word from our hearts and mouth.
 - 3. *"If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom."* (James 3:13, NLT)

Conclusion:

- If we are not speaking life, then when you speak, you license the devil to act in destruction.
- Syrophonician woman - dogs, crumbs
- *"But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness."* (James 3:17-18, NLT)
- Let us hold fast our confession (Heb. 4:4; 10:23)