



## Real Faith // Real Action

### #6 Taming the Tongue

#### Introduction:

In 1839 author Award Bulwer-Lytton quipped “The pen is mightier than the sword” which has remained a common saying through till today. But I wonder if the pen has been pipped by the tongue as being the most powerful weapon and force. With the changing face of media today, the spoken word can change a nation, ruin a reputation, and destroy a life. What does that mean for the Christian who is the closest person most people will ever get to knowing Jesus? Why is the tongue such a powerful force for good and evil?

**Play and listen to** - “The Passion” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JIOna6Bj9Y>

**Pray:** That God would reveal to each of us, how we can do better in encouraging others.

**Read:** James 3:1-12

**Play video:** [https://youtu.be/W64hbqSOU\\_w](https://youtu.be/W64hbqSOU_w)

**Share** for 1 min each what your “take away” thought is from this video

#### Thoughts to share:

- Have you ever said something you wish you could take back? Share what happened. What would you have done differently?
- The tongue is neither good nor bad. It simply is the messenger. Compare the negative effects (Ps 50:19; 52:2,4; 57:4; Proverbs 25:23; 28:23; Romans 3:13) with the potential of good (Proverbs 10:11; 12:18; 15:4; 20:15). We may often avoid the worst, but do we consciously and intentionally speak what is best?
- In our everyday conversation, how seriously do we take verse 9? What does this verse say about the caution and reverence with which we choose our words?
- Someone once said: “*We may find it helpful when we are in doubt to ask ourselves three simple questions. 1. Is What I am About to Say True? 2. Is What I am About to Say Necessary? 3. Is What I am About to Say Helpful?*” Does this properly cover the use of the tongue?
- As Jon shared, there’s a few things we can do before saying something... S.T.O.P
  - S - slow down (“be slow to speak”)
  - T - Think (what am I really saying - what are they hearing?) Would God say it?
  - O - Objective (what’s the payoff / What will it do to them?)
  - P - Prayer & Positivity. ( how would God have me respond?)

**... which is your biggest challenge?**

**Consider...** Jesus said tongue merely speaks out what the heart is full of (Matthew 15:10-11; 17-19). So read the passage in James and every time you see the word “tongue” replace it with heart. What we speak out with our tongues belies our heart. Think about how you could not just avoid speaking badly and sinfully about people, but actually intentionally go out of your way to praise and encourage another. It may be the best investment in another person you ever make.

**Pray.** Ask for forgiveness for the times you have praised God, but used your tongue against another. Ask God for opportunities to speak encouraging words into the life of one of your group, and a person who is not yet a follower Jesus.