

Control Your Tongue

Traction- Part 6

James 3:1-12

July 12, 2009

Being Mature With My Mouth Means...

1. EXPRESSING MY TONGUE'S POSITIVE POTENTIAL.

- **For Instruction.**

"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." James 3:1

"Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching." 1 Timothy 5:17

- **For Direction.**

"Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires." James 3:3-4

- **For Praise.**

"With it we bless our God and Father..." James 3:9a

"I will praise the Lord, and may everyone on earth bless His holy name forever and ever." Psalms 145:21

"Let someone else praise you, not your own mouth a stranger, not your own lips." Proverbs 27:2

"So encourage each other and build each other up..." 1 Thessalonians 5:11a

"A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Proverbs 25: 11

2. EXTERMINATING MY TONGUE'S DESTRUCTIVE POWER.

"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell." James 3:5-6

- **Cursing**

"With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh." James 3:9-12

"Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." Ephesians 4:29

- **Boasting**

"I warned the proud, 'Stop your bragging!'" Psalms 75:4

- **Lying**

"The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth." Proverbs 12:22

"You must not testify falsely against your neighbor." Exodus 20:16

- **Gossiping**

"A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends." Proverbs 16:28

- **Complaining**

"Do everything without complaining and arguing." Philippians 2:14

ACTION STEPS:

1. **Clean Up.**

"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." Matthew 12:34

2. **Request Help.**

"Take control of what I say, O Lord, and guard my lips." Psalms 141:3

3. **Speak Less.**

"The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking; the mouth of the wicked overflows with evil words." Proverbs 15:28