

The Amazing Power of the Tongue
James 3:1-12

Proverbs 18:21
James 1:19–20, 26; 2:12; 4:11; 5:9, 12

Five areas of the tongue's profound influence:

1. The tongue TESTS OUR TEACHERS (v.1)

Proverbs 10:19; 11:12; 17:27
Isaiah 6:1–7

2. The Tongue MEASURES OUR MATURITY (v. 2)

Matthew 12:33-37
James 1:26

3. The Tongue DETERMINES OUR DIRECTION vv.3-5

It can sway men to violence or it can move them to the noblest actions. It can instruct the ignorant, encourage the dejected, comfort the sorrowing and soothe the dying. Or, it can crush the human spirit, destroy reputations, spread distrust and hate, and bring nations to the brink of war. (Curtis Vaughn)

4. The tongue IGNITES OUR INIQUITY (vv. 6-8)

Psalms 58:1-5
Psalm 140:1-3
Romans 3:12-13

5. The tongue COMPROMISES OUR CONFESSION (vv. 9-12)

Some practical suggestions...

1. Be slow to speak (James 1:19)

Washington Irving remarks "A sharp tongue is the only edged tool that gets sharper with constant use. "

Proverbs 17:28

2. When you do speak, make it your aim to speak of people's sin and struggles only to their faces, and only their virtues behind their backs. (**Ephesians 4:29**)
3. Make your speech the first focus of your sanctification.
4. Remember the power of your tongue

Psalm 141:3