

Faith Works

by Craig B

James 3

Faith Works... Through the Tongue

The Tongue at Work

A Diagnostic Test

Matthew 12:34-35

... for the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

Faith Works

So... what comes out of your mouth shows your heart condition - the faith you are trusting in...

The Power & Effect of the Tongue at Work

- Horizontal
- Vertical
- Within

Messages **of** the Heart:

Messages **to** the Heart:

- Verbal words
- Written words
- Thought words
- Acted out words

James 3:1-2

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

James 1:3-15

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to

go. Likewise, the **tongue** is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The **tongue** also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come from the heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

1 Peter 2:11-12

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

James 3:17-18

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Trials

Uncomfortable circumstances experienced.

Tests

An opportunity to discover the truth about our self while also improving skills and strengths.

Temptations

An opportunity to choose to love and worship God through obedience or to choose to serve/honor/worship ourselves

Saving Faith

1. Understanding the teaching (Gospel)
2. Agree that the teaching (Gospel) is accurate
3. Respond by confessing the truth of the Gospel and trusting in it alone and completely.

A prayer of Pursuit by A.W. Tozer

O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and mad me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need of further grace, I am ashamed of my lack of desire.

O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, that so I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me.

*Say to my soul, "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." Then give me grace to rise and follow. Thee up from this misty lowland where I have waders so long.
In Jesus' name Amen*