

You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

(Mt. 12:34)

Men will give account on judgment day for every CARELESS WORD they have spoken. By your words you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned. (*Mt. 12:36*)

What goes into a man's mouth does not make him unclean, but what comes out of his mouth that is what makes him unclean. (*Mt. 15:11*)

So each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully with his neighbors... nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking that are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. (*Eph. 4:25*)

Do not let unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (*Eph. 4:29*)

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (*Prov. 15:1*)

A tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit. (*Prov. 15:4*)

The heart of the righteous weighs
its answers, but the mouth of the fool
gushes evil. (*Prov. 15:28*)

How long will you torment me and crush
me with words? (*Job to Bildad, Job 19:2*)

If anyone considers himself to be
“religious” and does not keep a tight
rein on his tongue, he deceives
himself and his religion is worthless.

(James 1:26)

FREEDOM OF SPEECH





small **bark** > big **bite**

small **remark** > big **fight**



FIRE surrounded by combustibles

FIRE fueled by no external force



FRUSTRATION. All types of difficult creatures have been trained to become tame and useful, brought under human control.. Not so, the tongue! It is intrinsically prone to be irresponsible, irrepressible, and savage.

CONTRADICTION. We judge certain anomalies to be unnatural, intolerable, and wrong. Yet a tongue that blesses and curses is not less offensive and hypocritical to the Lord.

We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect [complete, mature, fully developed] man, able to keep his whole body [life] in check.

(James 3:2)

The compulsion to “talk” is our most **volatile** and **vulnerable** human desire.

If you are able to control your tongue, then you have discovered the power that would enable you to control **any other** urge, temptation, or weakness.

Only one way to control your words.
control your heart.

Only one way to control your heart.
let God have it.

Let God's **forgiveness** clean it out.
Let God's **Spirit** fill it up.