

- ◆ Our vision for 2024:
 - Pursue the goal that the Lord has placed before us - to return to the simplicity of Biblical Love. Its' the calling of the Great Commandment that empowers the Great Commission.
 - Compare a New Year's Resolution of going to the gym to new church goers – we need to stick with it.
 - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
 - Are we ready to be trained and transformed by the Holy Spirit in order to fulfill our calling?
- ◆ Book of James – James is writing to Jewish believers
 - James 1:22-25 Be doers of the Word. Gives promise of blessings.
 - James 1:26 Controlling our tongue.
- ◆ Three sins in the church that weaken our unity, witness, and message:
 1. Slander - Sharing of something that is not 100% true and results in damaging a person's reputation.
 2. Gossip - Sharing bad news behind someone's back out of a bad heart. Proverbs 26:23
 3. Judgement –
 - Righteous Judgement – determine right and wrong by biblical standards.
 - Hypocritical Judging or Unrighteous Judgment - pointing the finger at other people for doing the things we are guilty of and excusing the sins of others.
 - Shows little mercy; Excuses personal sin; Destroys mercy, gratitude, and joy
 - These 3 sins must be defeated if we desire to be a place of Faith, Hope, and Love.
 - All of these are the evil children of the tongue.
- ◆ Book of James – underlining theme of controlling our tongue.
 - James 3:6 Tongue is a fire...
 - James 4:6 Grace to the humble.
 - Repentance is the key to humbling ourselves to God.
 - James 4:7-10 repentance for the Christian:
 - Submit to God – obey and bow down
 - Resist the Devil – stop making excuses
 - Draw near to God - worship
 - Ask God to forgive me; confession is agreeing with God.
 - Obey the Word.
 - James 4:11 Do not speak against one another.
 - James 5:9 Do not complain against one another.
 - James 5:12 Do not swear.
- ◆ Good News: You cannot do this by trying harder on your own.
 - Transformation, allow the Holy Spirit to do His Work.
 - Philippians 2:13 – God works in each of us.
 - Our words should honor God. Watch over our tongues.
 - God puts a seed to change our will to follow God's Will.
- ◆ We cannot change without the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot have that power if we don't ask. We cannot ask if we don't humble ourselves and confess.
- ◆ Story of Arnold Schwarzenegger – “chicken legs”

Bible References:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27
 James 1:22-27
 Proverbs 26:23
 John 8:3-7

Matthew 5:37
 James 3:6, 4:6
 Proverbs 3:34
 James 4:7-10

James 4:11
 James 5:9, 12
 Philippians 2:13