



Series: True Faith for Distorted Times (05)

Title: True Tongue

Scripture: James 3:1-12

Theme Verse: *34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* **John 13:34–35 ESV**

September: *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*

James 1:22

October: *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*

James 4:7

1. The Tongue is a torch (James 3:1-4) that has great power.

- The tongue is a fire that directs. (v. 3)
- We must respect the direction the tongue can give. (Prov. 26:22)
- The tongue can direct selfishly through harsh criticism and control.
- The tongue can direct selflessly through encouragement and guidance.

2. The Tongue is a wild -fire (James 3:5-8) that can cause problems.

- The tongue is a fire that destroys. (v. 6, Prov. 26:20-21)
- We must beware the unrighteousness and restless evil of the tongue. (Prov. 10:19)
- We must be aware of how quickly the fire of the tongue can spread.

3. The Tongue is a camp -fire (James 3:9-12) with endless possibilities.

- The tongue is a fire that delights. (vs. 9-10)
- Speak words of life! (Prov. 18:21; 15:23, 1 Peter 3:10)

real
people

walking
with Christ

inviting
others

serving
together

PARKWAY
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How to break and tame the power of the tongue:

- **Through the Word of God**
 - I will know the truth and the truth will set you free. (John 8:31-33)
 - Is there anything in God's Word that proves the negative words about me? Is there anything in God's Word that proves the words I speak about others?)
- **Through the NAME of Jesus** - "I AM" - the PERSON OF GOD
 - I am being conformed to the image of God. (Romans 8:28-29)
 - Are the negative words about me true of Jesus? (Bring those statements up - is ANY one of these statements like Jesus?)
 - Are my words to others like Jesus? (1 Peter 4:10)
- **Through the Atoning Blood of Jesus**
 - I will drag words about me through the atoning blood of Jesus and surrender them.
 - I repent of the words I have spoken.
 - Through Jesus I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue. (Psalm 39:1)

How to SURRENDER THE TONGUE

- Psalm 39:1 - I said, "I will guard my ways That I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle While the wicked are in my presence."
 - Psalm 141:3 - Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.
 - James 1:19 - "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."
 - Prov. 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away wrath; but harsh words stir up anger."

NOW WHAT?

- It is time to break the curse of the words in our lives.
- I repent of the words that I have used to hurt others.
- We need to forgive ourselves for the things we've said and also forgive others for the things others have said to us.

Twelve Words that Can Transform Your Life

- "Please", "Thank You", - when you use these words, you are treating others like people and not things. You are showing appreciation.
- "I'm Sorry" - these two words have ways of breaking down walls and building bridges.
- "I love you" - Don't read romance in these words, but go deeper than that. As Christians, we are to love the brethren and even love our enemies. "I love you" can carry tremendous power.
- "I'm praying for you" - and you really are. When you talk to God about people, THEN YOU CAN TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD. Our private praying for people helps us in our public meeting with people.