

# THE TONGUE !

What does God's Word say

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**The tongue is a little member and boasteth great things, behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth. The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell, for every kind of beast, and of birds, and of serpents and of things in the sea, is tamed and hath been tamed of mankind, but the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God; even The Father, and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My Brethren - THESE THINGS OUGHT NOT TO BE.**

**James 3 v 5.**

**Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth. Proverbs 6 v 2.  
Life and Death are in the power of the tongue...Proverbs 18 v 21.**

**This should be a serious warning to all who participate in Malicious Gossiping.**

**Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth ...Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice, and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4 v 29.**

**Psalms 39 v 1 ...keep my mouth with a bridle!**

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It is a fact that not one person can point the finger at another !! If *all* the skeletons were to drop out of everyone's closet who could stand unashamed - not one. ??

*The Bible says 'There is none righteous, no, not one.' Romans 3 v 10.*

*He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone...John 3 v 7.*

*For all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. Romans 3 v 23.*

May it be our Prayer to God that He will help each one of us to control our tongue. That little member of the body which can do so much harm, cause so much hurt.

*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. Psalm 19 v 14.*

*Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. Colossians 4 v 6.*

*If a man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. James 3 v 2.*

Words spoken in haste, are often regretted later – but sadly they can *never* be retracted. Broken relationships are often the result of abusive, hurtful and offensive words, yet even though these outbursts may be regretted, many find it very difficult to say “I’m sorry,” “I apologise,” or “Please forgive me.”

Countless people are depressed and hurting, because of horrible words spoken. So much unhappiness is caused; so many lives are shattered. May we offer a word of advice? eg. You may be faced with a situation which has made you very, very angry. The thoughts of what you will do and say when you meet the person concerned are wildly turning over in your mind. You are ready to pounce!!

We would say to you “**STOP.**” Don’t act in haste. Now this will certainly not be easy to do, as the devil will be sitting on your shoulder encouraging you to take action, **but** if you can just stop and ask God to help you. Ask him to make you calm - to give you the grace to deal with the situation in the right way. Ask him to take control of your tongue, to guide and direct your words – *and He will do it.*

It is always best to nip arguments in the bud, and get disagreements sorted out quickly.

***In Ephesians 4 v 26 we read:  
....Let not the sun go down upon your wrath, neither give place to the devil.***

However, if it is not possible to get the argument settled immediately, it is best to avoid the person concerned until you are in a better frame of mind. Then with God's help and in the light of a new day, you will see things differently. You will be better equipped for common-sense to prevail.

#### **THE TONGUE AND GOSSIP! - A most hateful pastime.**

***....where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross. He that hateth, dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; when he speaketh fair, believe him not; for there are seven abominations in his heart. Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation. Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein; and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him. A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin. Proverbs 26 v 20 -28.***

People will always talk about other people, that is human nature. But there are those who ***thrive on gossip!*** Just like those addicted to alcohol etc. – so you will find people who are addicted to gossip. They just live every day for gossip, gossip, gossip - shredding others to pieces. It is a well know fact that 'gossiping people' ***are not*** happy people - they have a chip on their shoulder about something. They really need God's help to deliver them from this horrible curse which is holding them in great bondage.

However, everyone accepts that, sad as this fact may be, it is ***no*** consolation to those who are on the receiving end of a malicious, slandering tongue. The Bible says, malicious words are as wounds that go down into the uttermost parts of the belly. It has been proven that some people suffer excruciating abdominal pain – but when examined - no medical evidence can be found to explain this pain.

It has also been discovered that people who have been victims of crime, victims of some malicious act or even malicious gossip – have emotional wounds which go to the very depths of their being. This is now recognised professionally as 'The Invisible Injury.' It is acknowledged that an estimated one per cent of the population is suffering from PTSD. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

This leaflet is specifically about 'The Tongue.' Perhaps you are one such person who has been on the receiving end of an out-of-control abusive tongue. You have been so hurt - you relive the whole episode every time you think of your offender. It is a great struggle for you.

There is one thing whereby you can take heart and have assurance - that is - God knows all about it. He has heard every malicious word – seen every vicious deed. He fully understands what you have been through or presently going through and *in His time* He will deal with your offender. You can rely on His promise when He said, ***‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.’***

In the meantime ask God to help you. Ask Him to heal your hurt and brokenness and He will. With His help and in His time your pain and hurt will ease and eventually fade away.

***Forgiveness.*** How often have you heard the remark ‘I’ll *never* forgive him/her for what he/she did?’ Yet God’s word makes it very clear.

***“be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:29  
(Read also Matthew 18: 21 to the end.)***

Pay particular attention to the statement ‘Forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.’

As everyone knows, it is very easy *to say* ‘forgive’ the person who has wronged you, but let’s be honest, it can be extremely difficult, especially if some terrible thing has been said or some awful deed has been done to you or a loved one. It is only through much Prayer and asking God’s help – that you will reach that point where you can truly forgive ‘from our heart.’

Sometimes we may say we forgive and mean it - but bring up the subject again and you’ll soon realise if you have truly forgiven the person or not. If the pain and hurt is still there – then ‘the forgiveness is still incomplete.’ However, if you persevere in ***Prayer***, God will give you the victory. The main thing to remember is we have a duty to God to forgive.

***When ye stand praying, Forgive, if ye have ought against any; that your Father also which is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. Mark 11: 25-26.***

As you battle with your hurt and pain, if you can turn your thoughts to ***JESUS*** - He was ridiculed, condemned, persecuted and mocked more than any other person. He was betrayed by Judas, one of His own disciples. Finally He was nailed to the cross, where he was stripped, scourged and spat upon. He was humiliated and put to shame in every possible way. Then the crowd called out, Away with Him, Away with Him, Crucify Him, Crucify Him. Yet, as He hung there, dying, on that cruel cross, He cried ***“Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”***

**The devil is the instigator of *all evil speaking*, arguments, bitterness, hatred, jealousies, etc. It is time he was we put to flight.**

### ***Guilty!!***

Perhaps as you read this leaflet, you know **'you'** have hurt someone either by a vicious deed or malicious gossip. If this is the case, may you be so strongly convicted of your wrong doing – that you will truly seek to be reconciled to that person. If you are truly repentant of your actions, ask God to give you the courage to go to the person concerned and say “I’m sorry, will you please forgive me ?” Just think what you would do to the devil by uttering these few words in sincerity - he would be devastated, he would be defeated.

From the opposite perspective - Telling someone who has hurt you deeply, that you genuinely forgive them – what an impact that would have, not only on the person concerned, but again, it would be a tremendous victory over the devil.

However, you can only have **total victory** over the devil when your life is completely surrendered to Jesus Christ.

***James 4 v 7 proclaims, “Submit yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil and he will have to flee from you.”***

### ***Christians - Speaking the truth in love.***

Total commitment to the Lord brings another aspect to the use of the tongue. As Christians we are given The Great Commission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As we speak to the lost and proclaim the truth of The Gospel, very often that truth hurts, but it must be understood that this is a different kind of hurt.

Speaking the truth of the Gospel may hurt, but as a result, if those who listen are convicted of their sin and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in Repentance, seeking His Salvation, then those words will have accomplished what God intended. This is what the preaching of the Gospel is all about, speaking the truth, in love. The Bible says,

***Preach the word; be instant, in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. 2 Timothy 4 v 2***

### ***Divisions between Christians.***

***Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone. If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained a brother.***

***But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.***

***And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the Church (or fellowship) But if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen and a publican. Matthew 18 v 15-17.***

The above Scripture speaks for itself. If someone offends you – let it be an unsaved person or a Brother/Sister in The Lord. Pray to The Lord, ask Him to help you

address the problem, then *Go privately to that person as soon as possible* in a calm and non-argumentative manner and tell him/her *exactly* how you feel.

We would be surprised if we knew just how many people are walking around 'offended,' yet in very many cases the one who is supposed to have 'offended', is totally unaware that he/ she has done so. The problem may be very real but unless it is addressed how can there be a God-honouring, conclusive outcome. God's Word tells us if you have been hurt or offended by someone, *go, tell them* and get it sorted.

Words can be misinterpreted, misconstrued or misunderstood. How many times have we heard someone say 'But that's not exactly what I said' or 'that's not what I meant' or 'you must have taken me up wrong.' Sometimes even '*the way*' something is said can lead to misunderstanding. So it is always best to follow The Lord's instructions, that way there will be a lot less hassle.

However, on the other side of the coin, if you have done your best in trying to sort out a problem - and still you are getting nowhere - then - you again have to do as God's Word instructs - leave it - there is nothing more you can do. If the 'other person' has been stiff-necked and stubborn - then the following strong words *from The Lord* are applicable:- **Let that person be unto you as a heathen and a publican.**

So in conclusion, may God help us all to use our tongues aright. By His guidance may we know when to speak out and when to be quiet. If after reading this leaflet, you are convicted of sin in your life, and you genuinely desire to lead a new life dedicated to God, simply pray as follows:

**Dear Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I am a sinner. This day I turn to you in genuine repentance and ask you to please forgive me. You are the only one who can take away all the guilt I feel for being so foul-mouthed, and letting my tongue run riot. Please give me the courage to say, "I'm sorry" to those I have hurt or to forgive those who have hurt me. As I come to you now, will you please give me a fresh start to lead a new life, following in your ways? Thank you for shedding your precious blood and dying for me on that cruel cross of Calvary, that I might be saved. As I trust you now as my Saviour, I pray that I will know your resurrection victory in my life. Thank you Jesus. Amen.**

If you have earnestly prayed this prayer and accepted Jesus as your Saviour, the first most essential thing you must do, is *tell someone* who will help and encourage you in your Christian life. Pray and read The Holy Bible every day.