

Teen Topics Power of the Tongue

The Issue:

The words that we say have such a huge impact on so many things. Our words can help us build friendships or create bitter enemies. Our words can encourage one person while hurting another. Let's look at Scripture to see what God says about our speech and how to best use it for His glory.

What does the Bible say?

What do these verses say about the impact our words have?

- > James 3:3-5 - Though our tongue is little, it is very powerful.
- > James 3:10-12 - Words are used to curse & bless = problem.
- > Prov. 12:18 - Words can bring pain or bring healing/comfort.
- > Prov. 15:1 - Words can help keep peace or stir up anger.

How should we use our words in a positive way?

- > I Tim. 4:12 - Use your speech to be an example to others.
- > Prov. 4:24 - Do not use dishonest and hurtful speech.
- > Prov. 12:15; 16:24 - Use words to be an encouragement.
- > Psalm 19:14 - Focus on pleasing God with our speech.

What should I do?

Our speech is an outward reflection of what is in our hearts (Matt. 12:33-37), so it is important to first confess any sin in our hearts that may be causing wrongful speech (e.g., lack of respect for parents, hatred toward someone, jealousy, etc.). Then we must realize the significant impact our words can have to uplift and encourage those around us. We must be committed to intentionally using our words in a way that honors the Lord. Opportunities are all around us to do so! How can you use your words to encourage someone today?

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