

Introduction:

- *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit."* (Proverbs 18:21, NKJV)
- *"For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body."* (James 3:2, NKJV)
- Pat Holloran - a seer who stressed with us the power of our words.

I. Thoughts from James**A. Words Can Be Uncontrollable**

1. Often our emotions have more control over our words than do our logic.
2. Our words can be motivated by our insecurity.
3. Our words can be greatly influenced by our associations...negative people, gossips, talk radio, etc.
4. Our words can be controlled by our imagination. What ever we dwell upon we speak.

B. What indicates a perfect/mature man?

1. A person who can control his words is a mature man. The Greek word *telios* means mature or fully tested. The word man used in the verse is not *anthropoid* but *aner*, meaning man as opposed to woman or "perfect husband". IE if you can do this with your spouse you can do this with anyone.

C. The way to control your body is to learn to control your words.

1. Ie. The bit in a horses mouth. A little bit of pressure on a mostly unseen things brings a total change in direction. So to our words.
2. Ie. Ships rudder; Again, not all that visible but definitely sets the direction of the ship.
3. Whatever controls your tongue is what controls you. A spiritual man makes sure his word are positive and creative.

II. What Are Words**A. As Christians we treasure words.**

1. Jesus is the Word. He brings us Words of life. The worlds are held together by the power of his word. (Heb 1:3)
2. We have a Bible filled with His words that through the Holy Spirit gives us life. When we share the message we preach using words.

B. Words are more than what we say. They begin as thoughts in the mind. And they paint thoughts/pictures in the mind of those who listen.

1. Words begin in the mind. They exist there before they are ever spoken
2. The word logos - word - means: "the causing of something to be seen for what it is, and the possibility of being oriented thereby."

C. Meyer a NT scholar says that the logos has an implied meaning based upon the person speaking. The more important the person the weightier/authority the words.

1. Therefore words convey not only meaning but also character and personality of the speaker.

2. Since they come from the heart, they reveal the very intent of our thinking. *"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."* (Hebrews 4:12, NLT) IE. Note: that as the people listened to Jesus he taught as one having authority. IE. Centurion Mt 8:8 just speak the Logos my servant will be healed.
3. If God is telling us through James that our words matter and we should be very careful what we speak, it only stands to reason that God himself has been very careful to give us His Logos.
 - a) And if words convey mental pictures then we should learn how to visualize the Word of God to see what He sees. We need Holy Spirit help to do this.

III. Word Have Power

- A. Death and Life are in the power of the tongue. Prov 18:21
 1. Jesus in Mark 11:21 cursed the fig tree.
 2. Jesus uses this moment to reveal the potential power of our words.
 3. *"I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart."* (Mark 11:23, NLT)
 - a) Notice that the miracle is produced by saying, not by thinking.
 - b) The ability to move the mountain is Jesus trying to let us know the power of our words when spoken in faith.
 - c) Malachi says that God keeps a book of remembrance of our words. *"Then those whose lives honored God got together and talked it over. God saw what they were doing and listened in. A book was opened in God's presence and minutes were taken of the meeting, with the names of the God-fearers written down, all the names of those who honored God's name."* (Malachi 3:16, The Message)
 - d) Dan 10:12 angel Gabriel comes to Daniel because of his words.
 - e) Our words are a creative force for good or evil.
- B. We create or destroy with our words!
 1. Life and death are in the power of the tongue.
 2. Meditation helps us to focus the power of our words.
 3. Phrase used years ago to much conversation: "If my mind can conceive it and my heart can believe it, then I can achieve it!"