**The Tongue**

What do we need to realize as we move to control the tongue?

**Know the Power of Your Words**

Proverbs 12:18 There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Our words can act like sword thrusts, making sharp cuts into the soul of our friends when we speak thoughtlessly.

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Let’s use words to bring healing and life to other people.

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

We need speak in such a way that even our rebukes bring grace because they are fitly spoken for the purpose of helping the other person.

**Weigh Your Words**

AMP Proverbs 13:3 The one who guards his mouth [thinking before he speaks] protects his life; The one who opens his lips wide [and chatters without thinking] comes to ruin.

Proverbs 18:13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

Think and listen carefully before you speak.

**Don’t Mix Anger with Your Words**

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 18:6 A fool’s lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

When we speak angerly with someone, the anger will be reciprocated.

Your angry words will be remembered by those around you long after you have forgotten them.

**Practical Application**

*1. Dedicate your heart, mind, and tongue to the Lord, daily.*

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Luke 6:45 tells us that of the abundance of our hearts our mouth speaks.

Fill your heart and mind with the Word of God and spend time in prayer.

Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

*2. Pray that God would give you an awareness/consciousness of your words.*

Someone once said, “Taste your words before you spit them out!”

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Take responsibility for the words you use.

*3. Ask for forgiveness for any unloving words or attitudes.*

Repent to the Lord and ask for forgiveness regarding language or words that you have spoken that are offensive.

Commit to working on changing the way you speak in order to demonstrate His love to the world.

*4. Practice speaking words that will encourage, comfort, edify, and inspire.*

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Ask God to guide you to speak words that will honor Him and accomplish His purposes.

Psalms 141:3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

*“The tongue is the only tool that gets sharper with use”* -Washington Irving