

Words carry enormous \_\_\_\_\_\_ – the power to heal or the power to wound, to encourage or to dishearten, to speak truth or deceive, to praise or to criticize. They can be the key to our success, or the reason for our downfall.

Our goal should be to make Jesus Lord of our lips. If Jesus is Lord of our lips, then He will be Lord of our lives.

"Words kill or words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose." (*Proverbs 18:21 Message*)

## James 3:3–12

## The Power of Your Tongue

- It can \_\_\_\_\_\_ the course of your life. (James 3:3–4)
- It can \_\_\_\_\_\_ your life and others. (James 3:5–6)
- It can \_\_\_\_\_\_ the life you will experience. (James 3:9–12)

## **Confronting Lies of the Tongue**

Lie #1: You have the right of \_\_\_\_\_\_.

• "Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips." (*Psalm 141:3*)

• From the list of seven things God hates, three of them are sins of the mouth. (Proverbs 6:16–19)

Lie #2: If you're just \_\_\_\_\_\_ it doesn't count.

 "Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, "I was only joking!" (Proverbs 26:18–19)

Lie #3: Once you have forgotten your words, their \_\_\_\_\_\_ is gone.

- "The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit." (*Proverbs 15:4*)
- "Jesus said that you and I are going to have to give an account for the words we speak. Satan, the father of lies, tells us just the opposite—that words evaporate. They just go out into the air and dissolve into nothingness."
  (Pastor Robert Morris)

## Words have power, so may we use words in a way that honors God and builds up others.

To be continued...

Resources: *The Power of Words* by Robert Morris *Watch Your Mouth* by Dr. Tony Evans

Answers: power; direct; damage; determine; free, speech; kidding; influence



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