

James: Faith That Works: Controlling Our Words

Day 1

Fair Use

It is illegal to publish copyrighted material if you do not own the copyright. There is an exception to this, and it is known as "fair use". This legal doctrine allows the use of copyrighted material for certain purposes such as criticism or scholarship within certain limits. When we use language, we are using something that we did not invent. Language comes from God himself, and we are allowed to use it only within certain parameters that God sets. To understand what is "fair use" when it comes to the language that God has invented, check out this article:

<https://www.gcu.edu/blog/spiritual-life/weekly-devotional-power-our-words>

Verses: Matthew 12:36-37, Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 3:8

Prayer Topics: Attitude, Transparency, Integrity

Day 2

Heart Issues

The power of our words comes from the special ability that words have to communicate value, will, and emotion. Numbers are powerful in communicating quantity, but words are powerful in communicating quality. Take a look at this devotional on the power of words in matters of the heart:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/words-matter-heart-matters/>

Verses: Ezekiel 36:26, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 5:8

Prayer Topics: Purity, Trust, Communication

Day 3

Paying Attention

When we try to gain control over our words, the first challenge is to take charge of what we say to ourselves. The ability humans have for self-deception seems limitless, and part of this ability comes from the way we use our attention. Find out more in this article:

<https://www.cslewisinstitute.org/resources/self-deception-and-the-christian-life/>

Verses: Romans 8:5-6, Philippians 4:8, 2 Corinthians 10:5

Prayer Topics: Discipline, Routine, Intentions

Day 4

Fruitfulness

Our words should bear good fruit for the kingdom. To start the process, check out this article:

<https://www.9marks.org/article/encourage-one-another-giving-grace-with-your->

words/

Verses: Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 15:4, Proverbs 12:25

Prayer Topics: Kindness, Generosity, Mercy

Thanks to for Sylvester Warsaw, Jr our devotional today

Scripture teaches there's power in the spoken word and also consequences to what we say because words have the power to create and destroy. Therefore, before we speak we need to weigh the consequences. The unfortunate mistake people make is equating loudness and many words with intelligence with knowledge and that's the furthest thing from the truth. Scripture teaches spirits have voices as well warning us to test the spirit,

1 John 4:1-6. Remember in the garden after rebelling against God, Adam and Eve tried hiding from God because they were naked and God asked them, "who told you?"

Scripture also teaches what we think in our hearts; our actions reveal our thoughts because words have an origin. In Ecclesiastes 5:2-3 you'll find these words, "Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you are on earth: therefore let your words be few. For dream comes through much activity, and a fool's voice is known by his many words." Also, Proverbs 10, talks much about the tongue, however, with that said I want to encourage you to fall in love with God in and through Christ Jesus by taking the time studying His Word that lives teaching us about Him and His will for humanity. The gospel of Mark tells us this, "In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues," Mark 16:18. When we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us by renewing our minds our language can't help but change because we're no longer in bondage to this world order because we have been baptized into Christ Jesus's death and raised anew in Him.