

# Victory of Tongue

## Introduction

It has been said that the “tongue” is one of the most exercised muscles of our body. It has been estimated that in a typical week, the average person will speak enough words to fill a 500 page book!

- ▶ The Bible warns that believers who do not bring restraint to their tongue and speech have been deceived and without such control over their words, their religious acts are worthless and hypocritical. “If anyone among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain”. (James 1:26).

- ▶ “bridle” in the previous verse is the leather harness and bit placed in a horse’s mouth to control it. In the same manner, Christians must allow the Holy Spirit to bridle their tongue, and bring restraint to their words.
  - ▶ We read it on the third Sunday of the holy lent
  - ▶ (james3:1–12)
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- ▶ Proverbs 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from troubles.
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  - ▶ • James 1:19–20 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God
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- ▶ **Hypocrisy of the Tongue**
- ▶ Elsewhere, James gave a warning in (*James 3:9–10*) of the evil poison of the tongue. He described some who try to use their tongue as praise and blessing to God, then turn around to use their tongue to speak evil of one another. “with it we bless our God, and Father and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so”.



# Mouth Sins



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▶ Some things list of the sins of the tongue. They are:

a divisive tongue

▶ a filthy tongue

▶ a negative tongue

▶ a boasting tongue

▶ a gossiping tongue

▶ a judgemental tongue

▶ a lying tongue

▶ a murmuring tongue

▶ a nagging tongue

▶ a sarcastic tongue

▶ an insincere tongue

▶

- ▶ Mouth sins such as gossip, backbiting, and slander we will focus on some of them
- ▶ when Paul wrote to the church at Rome he assured that gossips, slanderers, and bad-mouthers were in the same league as murderers, sexual perverts, and haters of God. Furthermore, he said such sins are worthy of a death sentence (Rom. 1:28–32).

- ▶ **Accountable for all our Words**
  - ▶ Jesus warned that our words are so important that they will actually determine our condemnation or justification. He said we will be held responsible for all our words, even our careless, idle words. “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matt. 12:36–37)
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- ▶ St. Paul cautioned believers to disallow any corrupt or worthless talk to come from our mouth. “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth .“ (Eph. 4:29). ***Words spoken in anger and bitterness cannot be taken back, The damage can not be undone:***
- ▶ A man slandered a friend and later went to the priest for confession. He said to the priest. I want to make peace with God for my vicious words. the priest told him to fill a bag with goose feathers and drop them on the door of every home in the village. So he did it. then he came back to the priest and said. What must I do?. The priest said, Take your bag and go collect all feathers, When the man tried to collect the feathers He could not find one. He went back to priest and told him the wind had blown the feathers away. The priest said, and so it is your words. they are easily dropped, but you can never collect them again.

- ▶ Our tongue is like a weapon can be used good to glorify god and that will defend us in front of god and can be as we said a curse v.bad and that will put us under god's judgement
- ▶ . This is what **St. John Chrysostom** says about the tongue: "God has surrounded the tongue with a double wall, with the barrier of teeth first and the fence of the lips second. In order that it may not easily and needlessly utter words it should not speak, keep it curved within your mouth. Suppose it does not stand for this treatment and wants to keep talking and talking.

- ▶ *Lying:*
- ▶ Lying is one of the worst sins of the tongue. Usually when you tell a lie it just gets bigger and bigger. For example.. you go to the corner store
- ▶ alone without permission, when you get home, your mom asks you where you were. You say you were at the park. She asks you who you went with. You name 2 or 3 friends of yours. Your mom keeps asking questions and you keep lying. Usually you get in more trouble. Sometimes, when we do something wrong we blame someone else. Proverbs 12:22 says: “Lying tongue is an abomination to the Lord”.

- ▶ *Swearing:*
  - ▶ Swearing is a major sin, especially when you swear in the name of the Lord
  - ▶ It is god's commatment not to swear at all, not by god's name
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- ▶ *Gossip:*
  - ▶ Another major sin is gossip. When you gossip, you ruin someone's reputation. If you tell someone what a person did wrong, he/she will go tell someone else and soon every one will know, and soon enough that person will have no friends.
  - ▶ Before you go and gossip, ask your self these three questions:
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- ▶ 1. Is it true? are you sure?
  - ▶ 2. Do you have to go and tell? if you do, that's when you ruin someone's reputation. Remember.. everyone makes mistakes'
  - ▶ 3. Is it nice to go and tell? Usually it is not nice to go and tell. How would you feel if someone told on you?
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# GRAFFITI®

Gossip  
— hearing  
something  
you like  
about  
someone  
you don't

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That awkward moment when you're gossiping about someone and they walk up behind you.

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Thank God for all the gossip and backstabbing our co-workers provide for our entertainment. Otherwise work might start feeling like actual work.



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- ▶ *Jesting:*
- ▶ *Can you tell me guys what is the definition of jesting and why it is not appropriate,*
- ▶ "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21). Also being sneaky around is bad.
- ▶ Let me tell you a story about a nice girl who loves her friend at work and can keep a secret
- ▶ She told her she will run late everyday to work 15 min due to... that nice girl come and ask oh did you see...I want to have a cup of tea with her wow what a great friend and she did nothing..she wants to have a cup of tea with her .

▶ *To keep silent or to talk:*

- ▶ A person often wonders which is better to keep silent or to talk. It is known that most saints preferred silence, keeping in mind the saying of *Solomon the sage*: “Much talk will not be free of error”. In this respect **Saint Arsenius** made his well known statement: “ It happened many times that I regretted having spoken, but I was never regretful as a result of my silence”. This is why the prophet David prayed saying: “O God, put a guard for my mouth and a fortified door for my lips.”

- ▶ The Divine inspiration also says: “To listen is better than to talk.”
- ▶ Saints preferred silence, not only to avoid errors of the tongue, but also to gain an opportunity for prayer and meditation. This is why the Spiritual Elder said: “Keep your tongue quiet so your heart may speak.” Saint *Isaac said*: “A person who speaks much shows that he is empty inside.”, also recall those friends who make you talk badly about other.

- ▶ ***Beneficial speech:***
  - ▶ There still remains an important question: is silence always a virtue and is all talk a sin? Certainly not for the prophet David says in the psalm: “My heart overflowed with useful speech.” This means that there is useful beneficial talk. This is when we talk about good deeds. People train themselves in silence so as to be able to speak beneficial words.
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- ▶ The martyr St. Stephen spoke and convinced those in the synagogue so much so that they could not oppose the wisdom and the spirit with which he was talking.
- ▶ Beneficial words include those of advise, of comfort, of encouragement, of spiritual guidance etc.
- ▶ There is a special time for silence and a special time for talking. For example, a priest can't keep silent if he is to give a sermon. You cannot keep silent when you go to confession. We should train ourselves always to have beneficial talk.oral exam,witness crime...etc