

Tony Pyle

10-18-11

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

James 3:1-12

- Transformation is what Paul is talking about in Romans 12:2. The importance of transformation is the *changing* or the driving force behind the change.
- For Christians the driving force of change is the Agent of Change--the Holy Spirit. Change can be seen through visible qualities coming out of us.
- We want to communicate; it is, in fact, inherent to our nature as humans. *WHAT* we communicate and *HOW* we communicate it is important to demonstrating the changing power of the Holy Spirit in us.
- The tongue is like...
 - the bit in the mouth of a horse.
 - the rudder on the back of a ship.
 - the spark that sets fire to an entire forest.
- What we say is very powerful and scripture is abundantly clear about how we should use our words.

3 Truths About Our Words

1. Our words are very difficult to control.

 2. Our words are way more powerful than we think.
 - Technology is a powerful tool that can destroy people through words.
 - What you put on the internet/Facebook is permanent.

 3. What you say reflects what you believe in your heart.
 - a. You hurt others because you are insecure in yourself.
 - b. You hurt others because you believe they deserve to be hurt.
 - c. If what you say is constantly hurting others, you believe that hurting others is the goal of life.
- Think about your words. Consider what you say. Do you help or do you hurt?