

Small Group Discussion:

1. What is the difference between cursing and cussing?
2. Share a life experience where a positive comment had a tremendously favorable impact on your life.
3. Share an experience where your words were potentially hurtful to others.

Spiritual Obesity and Authentic Christianity Part 2

“The Essential James” by Pastor Steven Furtick and “Authentic Christianity” by Pastor Timothy Keller

Small Group Discussion:

Text messaging Exercise #1

Text messaging Exercise #1:

“The power of life or death is in my tongue”

James Chapter 3: 1-11

New International Version (NIV)

The Power of the tongue:

³ Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ 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.

⁵ 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. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

Ephesians 4

New International Version (NIV)

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Psalm 34:13:

New International Version (NIV)

“keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from telling lies.”

Proverbs 18:21:

New International Version (NIV)

“The tongue has the power of life and death,
and those who love it will eat its fruit”

Spiritual Obesity and Authentic Christianity Part 2

“The Essential James” by Pastor Steven Furtick and “Authentic Christianity” by Pastor Timothy Keller

“The Essential James” Part 4 by Pastor Steven Furtick:

The tongue: A small organ the triggers a massive response



Spiritual Obesity and Authentic Christianity Part 2

Dead Sea – Hi salt content – lack of marine life



Show Video

Start at Min: 9:55

Finish at min: 32

Overview of the Book of James:

Audience: Letter to Jewish believers scattered in region. Consists of active practical expression of faith.

Author: James and half brother of Jesus, a younger son of Mary and of Joseph.

One of the twelve disciples (Acts 1:13).

The first of the 12 to be martyred (Acts 12:2) – executed in A.D. 44 as part of a larger persecution in which Peter was arrested.

Along with Peter and John, formed Jesus innermost circle. Was present during the following:

- Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5:37)
- The transfiguration (Matt: 17:1, Mark 9:2, Luke 9:28)
- Summoned by Christ to support him in Gethsemane (Matt 26:36-37, Mark 14:32-34)

“The Essential James” Part 4 by Pastor Steven Furtick:

Sermon preparation is serious business, taxing, messy, and intense.

And oh by the way, you doing it on behalf of God. There is a great state of vulnerability.

Those in the in leadership positions are accountable for what is taught and what is not taught. You are sieved through twice. Not every sermon is fun to teach.

Preaching the word of God is hard work. Do not fall into a Guitar-hero mode where everybody wants to be a rock star and no one what to learn the cords.

You are responsible for the how you use your tongue.

You will be accountable for what you say based on your level of influence.

A sobering thought for parents and teachers.

You are going to stand before God as to what you influence and not influence.

Recall the funny story about eating spicy almonds. “The point is that I am trying”

“The Essential James” Part 4 by Pastor Steven Furtick:

You will be accountable as to how you use your words to influence others.

We will stand before God for every word we speak and every word we do not speak

Our words weigh 1000 pounds.

Trim tabs, rudders, bits for horses all are small inputs that trigger massive change.

The tongue is something that we have to tame.

See list of “Signs of an untamed tongue” on the next page

So what is the answer? Answer: There is no answer.

You have to tame your tongue.

You have to keep your tongue in check.

“The Essential James” Part 4 by Pastor Steven Furtick:

Ray Prichard and Steven Furtick – signs of un-tamed tongue

1. Take cheap shots at people
2. When you gossip – “Pray for her - even though she wears short skirts.”
3. Repeating a rumor
4. Judging motives
5. Sharing of details that should remain private
6. Not keeping your mouth shut
7. Trashing talking
8. Insinuations
9. Saying things that are at the expense of others
10. Maximizing the sins of others and minimizing your own sin
11. Adding aggravating details in order make the absent look worse
12. Dismissing an unkind remark by saying “I was only joking”
13. Super sarcastic – squeezing a tube of tooth paste – you can not take it back

“The Essential James” Part 4 by Pastor Steven Furtick:

There is a difference between cursing and cussing.

Recall the story about Boston – Ronnie

“Bless your little heart” - your actual intentions make this either a source of life or a source of death.

Gossip = a fire that spreads both the transmitter and receiver.

If you want to change the direction of your life, change the declaration of your lips

If you want to change the trajectory of your life, change the words you speak

Your world is framed by your words.

In the beginning God spoke life into existence.

You can speak life in everything around you (friends, work, family, etc.)

“The Essential James” Part 4 by Pastor Steven Furtick:

You can speak life in everything around you (friends, work, family, etc.)

Instead of telling people about how bad your world is, tell people how awesome God is.

Tame your tongue does not mean to shut your mouth. It means to make your tongue work for useful purposes.

Patience and persistence is required to tame your tongue.

When a fire is lit in the correct context, your life can be changed.

The biggest decisions of your life will be made by your words.

- “I do”
- “No”
- “Yes”

James says that we talk out of both sides of our mouth.

“The Essential James” Part 4 by Pastor Steven Furtick:

When you spread division and gossip, you become a force of hell.

Be a source of fresh water not salt water.

Lets be a channel of blessing not cursing

We spew both fresh and salt water

Every time you open your mouth, you have the opportunity to be source of life or a source of death. A source of blessing or source of cursing. Fresh water or salt water.

Every time you open your mouth, you are going to bless God or curse man.

Speak life every time you have an opportunity to complain.

Tame your tongue if you have a complaining spirit.