

My BIG Mouth!

2 of 4 | Building Blocks

SLIDE 1 Introduction

In the first part of our series for April (which took two weeks) I laid out the case for how our tongues can guide our entire lives—for the better or for the worse. We used the passage in James 3 that talks about how our tongues are like the rudder of a ship or the bit in the mouth of a horse.

James uses these analogies to show us that one of the most important things we can do in life is learn to control our tongues. Then he goes on to say, *“no human being can tame the tongue.”* (James 3:8) He had already told us in chapter 1, verse 26 that without a tight rein on our tongues our *“religion is worthless.”* (James 1:26)

With only that information, what a hopeless dilemma we are in! However, God does not intend to leave us there “hung by the tongue.” He made us in his image to use the power of our tongues for creating good things in our lives and in this world.

The Scriptures tell us:

SLIDE 2 Romans 10:10 (NIV) *“For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and **it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.**”*

You’ve probably memorized the King James Version of this: *“and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

When we came to Christ it was the power of our tongues that resulted in our salvation, as the previous verse states:

SLIDE 3 Romans 10:9 (NIV) *“**If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved.**”***

It’s like the verse we shared in Part one:

SLIDE 4 Proverbs 18:21 (NIV) *“**The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.**”*

So we have established that our own mouths have more power than any

circumstance around us. That can be liberating or fear instilling, depending on how we use our words. Are they producing life and salvation or are they producing death and destruction?

SLIDE 5 It Just Doesn't Work For Me

Today we are going to look at why this isn't working in your life. It's a simple three-prong explanation that is so obvious that when I share it you will think you know it and do it. But the truth is, if you are not seeing the results of it, then you are not doing it. Back to the book of James.

In the first chapter James lays out how we are to bear up under suffering. This is because we have a greater hope than the world does. The people of the world look to the pleasures and pursuits of the world to give them a sense of wellbeing and purpose. As a result they weary themselves and eventually give up hope. We however, have placed our faith in the Lord Jesus and his return. This gives us the living hope of a new beginning where God *"makes all things new."* (Revelation 21:5)

As James shares this he tells us to ask God for wisdom. Not just to know what to do, but to know how to act and understand the circumstances surrounding us. Then he says this:

SLIDE 6 James 1:6 (NIV) *"**When you ask, you must believe** [KJV: "let him ask in faith"] **and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.** ⁷ **That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.** ⁸ **Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do."***

This gives us the first of the three things we need to know:

SLIDE 7 1. You must ask in faith.

Too often people are asking God with no basis of faith in what they declare or hope for. What do I mean by that? It's like a person who has purchased a new car and doesn't understand the warranty. Something happens to their vehicle and they take it in and ask the dealer to fix it at no cost. They reply, "It's not covered under the warranty." Some people will yell and scream and tell them it is not fair. However, that does not change the outcome.

It's the same with our mouths, we can get loud and demand our way, but it will not change God's mind one bit. God's Word is "*settled in heaven.*" (Psalm 119:89) It's the law of faith, or as they used to call it years ago, the "word of faith."

SLIDE 8 Romans 10:8 (KJV) *"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach)..."*

The Apostle Paul is quoting Deuteronomy 30:14 where Moses is instructing a new generation of Israelites in the Law. In verse 11 Moses told them this:

SLIDE 9 Deuteronomy 30:14 (NIV) *"Now what I am commanding you today **is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.**"*

SLIDE 10 My Heart's Not In It

This brings us to the second part of the puzzle of commanding our lives by the words we speak—our heart's not in it. Better said as, the word of faith is not in our hearts.

First let me say this: How do people give in to lies and believe them and become bound by them to their own destruction? Simple, they are constantly exposed to them.

So how do we as believers overcome lies and know the truth? By constantly exposing ourselves to the Word of God, the word of faith, the truth—the Bible!

God's Word has transformational power. It changes you by changing your mind. A new mind speaks new words. You cannot set out to speak the right things if you do not know the right things. And even what you do speak is no more than a mina bird if you have not become fully convinced of it in your own heart.

SLIDE 11 2. You must know the truth.

We all know the verse that states, "*You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.*" (John 8:32) What does it set you free from? Lies!

Being fully convinced of the truth of God's Word is what faith is built on. Look at how Hebrews puts it:

SLIDE 12 Hebrews 10:17 (KJV) *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

Without a heart fully convinced of the truth of God's Word and a mind renewed by it's principles in action, you cannot speak word of power. They are what the Bible calls vain words, idle words. They are words devoid of power to change anything in your life. Empty words. That not only applies to conversations, but to prayer as well.

SLIDE 13 3. You must speak from your heart.

So as we can see, the third part of this empowered speech is speaking from the heart. When the Bible says *"out of the heart the mouth speaks,"* (Luke 6:45) it's not declaring that it is the only place you can speak from. Many people just speak meaningless and powerless words out of their own heads. They are speaking what they know to no end of purpose.

We need to replace worldly knowledge and false information with the truth as revealed in Scripture, or what we speak has no power to change anything for anyone. And often it will continue to bring harm to our lives and the lives of others.

SLIDE 14 Altar Time

Like Moses said, *"This is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach."* All we need to do to begin activating the power of the Word in our lives is to get it in our hearts and flush out everything the world has taught us.

Like the Psalmist said:

SLIDE 15 Psalm 119:11 (NKJV) *"Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You."*