



Part 7 – Getting My Tongue Under Control
Proverbs

Pastor Mark Hartman
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James 3:2 “We all make many mistakes, but those who control their tongues can also control themselves in every other way.”

- I. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE INDICATORS THAT OUR TONGUE IS OUT OF CONTROL?
- A. When we hear ourselves **talking** too much.
1. *Proverbs 10:19* “Don’t talk too much, for it fosters sin. Be sensible and turn off the flow!”
 2. *Proverbs 17:28* “Even fools are thought to be wise when they keep **silent**; when they keep their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.”
 3. “It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.” (Mark Twain)
 4. *The difference between a successful career and a mediocre one sometimes consists of leaving about four or five things a day **unsaid**.* (Rafael Willis)
- B. When we hear ourselves **gossiping** about others.
1. *Proverbs 16:27-28* “Scoundrels hunt for scandal; their words are a destructive blaze. ²⁸ A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.”

2. The word **slander** means anything false or true that is said about another with the desire to hurt that person's character in the eyes of another.

C. When we hear ourselves saying **angry** words.

1. *Proverbs 29:11 "A fool gives full vent to anger, but a wise person quietly holds it back."*
2. *Proverbs 29:22 "An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins."*
3. *Proverbs 15:10 "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."*

II. THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE CAN CHOOSE TO USE OUR TONGUE FOR THAT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP TO OTHERS.

A. **Encourage** others.

1. *Proverbs 16:24 "**Kind** words are like honey—sweet to the soul and healthy for the body."*
2. *Job 16:4-5 "...I could spout off my criticisms against you and shake my head at you. [5] But that's not what I would do. I would speak in a way that helps you. I would **try** to take away your grief."*

B. Give someone sound **Biblical** advice.

1. *Proverbs 12:15 "Fools think they need no advice, but the wise listen to others."*
2. *Proverbs 15:22 "Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many counselors bring success."*

C. Be **honest**.

1. *Proverbs 2:7 "God is their shield, protecting those who walk with **integrity**."*
2. *Proverbs 11:5 "The godly are **directed** by their honesty."*
3. *Ephesians 4:15 "Speak the truth in a spirit of love."*

D. Share **Christ** with others.

*Proverbs 11:30 "The godly are like trees that bear life-giving fruit, and those who **save** lives are wise."*

1. Use **gospel** tracts that you could give to someone or leave in a doctor's waiting room or just use one on one to lead someone through. (Wooden Cubes in the Commons)
2. Participate in the "Gospel Conversation Training." (**Missions** Kiosk in the Commons)
3. Invite people to church.

III. HOW DO I GET MY TONGUE UNDER CONTROL?

- A. If your tongue has been out of control, **admit it** and decide to change.

*Proverbs 28:13 "People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they **confess** and forsake them, they will receive mercy."*

- B. Start filling your heart with **good stuff**.

1. *James 3:2 "We all make many mistakes, but those who control their tongues can also control themselves in every other way."*

2. *Matthew 12:34-35 "...Whatever is in your heart determines what you say. ³⁵ A good person produces good words from a good heart, and an evil person produces evil words from an evil heart."*

- C. Decide to stop handing out **critical remarks**.

James 4:11-12 "Don't speak evil against each other, my dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize each other and condemn each other, then you are criticizing and condemning God's law... what right do you have to condemn your neighbor?"

- D. Commit your tongue to the Lord **every day**.

Psalms 17:1-3 "Hear, O Lord, my righteous plea... I have resolved that my mouth will not sin."

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Notes:
