

What To Do About The Unruly Tongue

By Dianna Cudworth

If you are reading this then most likely you have come to the conclusion that our words are powerful and we can use words in prayer and declarations to bring forth blessings or cursing. In Deuteronomy God says: "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;" **Deuteronomy 30:19 (NKJV)** It is our choice, and frequently we make that choice with words. Jesus tells us "Judge not, that you be not judged. **Matthew 7:1 (NKJV)** Yet if I am not consciously thinking about what I say I fall back into my life long habits of speaking critical and judgmental words. For a long time I took comfort in believing that it was impossible for me to control my tongue so therefore I was off the hook. God would understand for the Word declares: "But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 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." **James 3:8 (NKJV)** And then I discovered this scripture is talking about the natural man not the spiritual man. As a born again believer I can and I am commanded to speak words of blessing, words of love and words of life. Jesus tells us "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." **Matthew 12:37 (NKJV)** Furthermore, He says "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment." **Matthew 12:36 (NKJV)** So in these three scriptures we are told that we should not curse men and we are going to be held responsible and judged by our words. God is talking about the believer in these scriptures not the natural man. When we consider that whatever we sow with our mouth we will reap in our life it is imperative to find a way to tame our tongues. It takes time and diligence to control what we say because frequently we have strongholds that need to be torn down, mindsets that need to be cast down, and old habits that need to be overcome. We are being changed into the image of Christ glory by glory, step by step. We are commanded "Therefore, having these promises,

beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” *2 Corinthians 7:1 (NKJV)* All this takes time and effort and in the meantime we are often left with an unruly tongue when we are under pressure from the world or the evil one. I know when I allow my emotions to direct my thoughts my tongue speaks from those emotions instead of speaking from my heart or spirit where God’s love abides. So what can we do about this rebellious member of our body?

First, I pray on a daily basis giving the Holy Spirit within me authority to control my thoughts and my words so that they are acceptable and pleasing to God. I ask the Holy Spirit to convict me when I say something that I should not say so that I can humble myself before God, ask for forgiveness, and receive the cleansing of all unrighteousness that he has promised me. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” *1 John 1:9 (NKJV)* Is that enough? I do not think so. We are a new creation when we come to Christ, we are born again by the Word of God, we are a new man created according to God in His image. The words from our mouth are powerful and if we curse with our mouth that curse does not disappear just because God has forgiven us. Those words open the door to Satan and give him power to operate in our lives and the lives of those we cursed. Quite often that is someone we love or at least someone God has commanded us to love and we truly do not desire any evil to befall them. We are just angry or upset or we just are not paying attention to what we say. If you have followed Kenneth Copeland’s teaching then you know that the world was created by the Word of God, it is sustained by the Word of God, it is a Word planet and to think that words are not powerful agents of action is remiss. If we speak it, Satan can and often does act on it. So what do we do when we mess up in the heat of emotions or open our mouth without engaging our mind, the mind of Christ. Once those words leave our mouth we cannot take them back. The scripture says: “Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.” *Matthew 15:11 (NKJV)* We have the forgiveness of God but that does not stop us from being defiled, it does not stop us from reaping what we sow. “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” *Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)* Because we have been forgiven, does that mean we are no longer responsible for our words, we are no longer going to be judged

for what we say? I think not. At least on this earth we are operating under the laws that God has established and we are going to suffer the consequences of our words and our actions. But our faithful God has given us the authority over the power of the enemy and thus has given us the power to take authority over our own words concerning that power. It is written: "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:19 (NKJV) God has given us a Bible full of promises and the honor to execute his word as it declares in Psalm 149: "To execute on them the written judgment-- This honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD!" Psalm 149:9 (NKJV) God tells us "If anyone (Greek Word: τις means any person or object, anything) defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him (or it). For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." 1 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV) Surely, God will destroy the words that we speak that defiles the temple we are if we ask him to do so and execute his written judgment.

So when I mess up and allow my mouth free reign, allowing the enemy to use me for his purposes, and speak from emotions or maybe worldly intellect, I trust the Holy Spirit to bring this error to my attention so I can deal with it. I pray something like this:

I confess these words that I spoke are cursing and death. I have chosen life and blessing so please forgive me Father for this sin and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. By the blood of the covenant, by the blood of the lamb, I take authority over the power of the enemy concerning these words I have spoken and I command it not to bear any fruit, to wither and die, to be as if it never was. Furthermore it is written what comes out of a man defiles a man. It is written that I am the temple of the living God, I am not my own, I am bought with a price, I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, and the words that I have spoken defile this temple which I am. It is written that God will destroy anything that defiles this temple which I am. Therefore I stand in faith that God will destroy the words out of my own mouth that are words of death, destruction, and cursing. It is written that if I confess my sin, which I have, God is faithful to forgive me and cleanse me of all unrighteousness. I execute the written judgment of God for that honor has all his saints. I thank God that He looks over his Word to see that it is performed

and His Word never returns to Him void but always does what he has sent it to do. Praise God. His Mercy Endures Forever!

Of course we must also continue to work with the Holy Spirit within us to renew our mind, purify our hearts and help us overcome our habits so as time goes by we need the prayer less and less. We must diligently and earnestly seek God's help in tearing down strongholds, casting down mindsets and filling our heart with the Word and Wisdom of God. For it is written: "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV) I pray that these musings are helpful in your daily walk in Christ. May God Bless You and Keep You. May He shine His face upon You and give you rest. May He lift his glory over you and give you peace. Praise the Lord God Almighty!