

Hello! This is Dorothy -

We are just thinking about the subject to do with the tongue and, somehow, we wriggle a little bit about this. We think we will do something else right now, because we feel a little guilty inside, don't we, because of our tongue? I think there is not a person amongst us, who would not admit that we have at some time used the tongue wrongly, especially in church and other situations. Often we start off really well, but then something seems to happen and we spread infection. Did you know that is the worst kind of infection? Perhaps we are surrounded by terrible plagues and diseases, but did you know that the infection of the tongue does something that literally effects eternity for so many lives?

We are looking at **James** and I happen to have with me an Amplified Bible. I would just like to read from **James chapter 3 -**

8 But the human tongue can be tamed by no man. It is a restless (undisciplined, irreconcilable) evil, full of deadly poison.

"Oh," you say, "not me! I make up: I put a bit of lipstick on or perhaps I don't wear lipstick. But not my tongue; it can sing beautifully. I love singing and I love saying nice things!" Yes, but this tongue is capable;

the Bible says it is capable.

14 If you have bitter jealousy (envy) contention (rivalry, selfish ambition) . . . “Oh,” you say, “those are words I do not really like! Now I do not mind talking about murders and those things, because I do not do those things.” But what about these things that come into the heart and underneath are that effecting your tongue, so that the praise and the adoration of the Lord and the witness which brings people to Christ is just not there. It goes on to say - . . . **in your hearts, do not pride yourselves on it and thus be in defiance of and false to the Truth.** Do you realize that in all these things that have been going on, there is a deep unrest, disharmony, rebellion; all sorts of evil and vile practices? Somehow the tongue brings these out! This is very interesting how that in **verse 17** - we read - **But the wisdom that is from above is pure . . .** So you say, “I want this! That is exactly what I want!”

We glanced very quickly yesterday at **Colossians chapter 4** -

6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. What does it mean: **grace, seasoned with salt?** We looked at an illustration which told that the prophet Elisha, in **2 Kings 2**, was in a situation in Jericho where they needed the water to be made right. They said, “Everything is good, but the water is not right.” He told them to take a cruise and he put salt into the water, and the water was

instantaneously made right. **(verse 19-22)**. You see, as we understand it is the grace of God, by His wisdom through us, that we will stand against the forces of darkness that are coming out of these vile tongues.

Let's take a practical situation. Somebody who doesn't like you is doing no good behind your back, perhaps with just little innuendos and little slurs or somebody wants to say these things to you. What do you do? Well, you do not partake in that situation, but, instead, in your spirit, you are praising and worshiping the Lord. You do not take it in and the grace of God will be shed in your heart. Suddenly, you find that even for the person who is being rotten to you, a love of God fills your heart; you love her! It is like seeing a child, who is being so stupid as to keep falling over the same thing. You love them and you want to help them. Instead of trying to go with your little pet idea of how to do it (something you learned somewhere from some book), just let the grace of God fill your heart. Just love them. Let them know that, in spite of all this, you identify with all that is happening in them, but you are not going to be partaker of it, and you are not going to spread the infection. What about your life right now? Perhaps there is something that has to be put right. Something that you have done perhaps in your church. Perhaps you have to go where the area of offense has occurred and make it right. If it is one person, deal with that one person. If it involves the whole church, tell the whole church,

saying, “I used my tongue wrongly.” But do make your life available that the tongue, which God has given as a marvelous instrument for praise and adoration unto Him, might count for the Lord. Would you give Him that tongue today? Will you say, *Lord, I want that grace to flow through me in Jesus’ Name.* Let it happen.

Do, please, send for that little book, *Food for Faith*, if you have not yet read it. There is a section that will help you further in this area. We love you and we are praying with you that Christ be exalted through us all.

In Jesus ‘ Name. Amen.