



**11 June 2017 – Ps Hayley Barrett**  
**Faith That Works – Taming The Tongue**

## 1. Speak Wisely

The Bible is full of advice about our speech. James 1:7,8 *“People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.”* Proverbs 10:19 *“Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.”* Proverbs 13:3 *“Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.”*

James says that the tongue can be a flame of fire, a world of wickedness and it can corrupt your body. It can set your life on fire with a fire from hell itself. It can be untamable, restless, evil and full of deadly poison. The tongue:

1. **Directs your path:** Where are we headed in life? Where will we be ten years from now? What do we talk about the most? We shape our words and they shape us.
2. **Sets things on fire:** When lighting a fire one of the things that you do is blow on it. Your breath will literally give life to that fire. Likewise our words give life to things.
3. **Reveals your heart:** Your tongue reveals what's going on inside of you, not just physically but spiritually. Whatever is in the well comes out in the water. Whatever is in the tree, comes out in the fruit.

How do we control what comes out our mouth? James 3:13 *“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.”* James tells us to focus on living good lives, doing good deeds and being humble. We tame the tongue by addressing the heart.

## 2. Discussion Points

- Ask your LifeGroup members to share about a time when they may have spoken too quickly and made a situation even worse than it was. How did they turn this situation around to achieve a positive outcome?
- Why are we so much quicker to talk before listening properly to what others are saying? What impression will the other person have when we do this? Who is more important?
- If what is in our hearts comes out of our mouths then what was going on in our hearts at the time we have said unkind things to someone else.
- Why is it sometimes difficult to be humble and put others' interests before ours?
- What practical steps can we take to tame the tongue and live righteously?

## 3. Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to always be in control of what comes out of my mouth and make sure that it is pleasing to both you and others around me. Amen