

## When you Open Your Mouth

James 3:1-12

Pastor Byron Hand



Principles to remember when we open our mouth (to speak)

1. Words **MATTER** - 3:1-2
2. Words are **POWERFUL** - 3:3-8
3. Words can be **DESTRUCTIVE** - 3:9-10
4. Words reveal our **HEART** - 3:11-12

Some Application: (Cindy Patten – JBC – Spring 2003 “Becoming a Barnabas”)

**Proverbs 18:21: “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”** We have the power, through our words, to lift or level a spirit. In light of that, we need to determine to be careful about our words. The following are six categories of words that God wants us to be using to encourage others; that is, to give life and hope to others.

4. Words of **AFFIRMATION**

1. Words of **MOTIVATION**

5. Words of **COMFORT**

2. Words of **JOY**

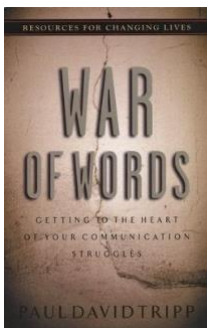
6. Words of **CONCERN**

3. Words of **WISDOM**

## WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH

- 1-2 **3** Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.
- 3-5 A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!
- 5-6 It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.
- 7-10 This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!
- 10-12 My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

### Two Great Resources:



*War of Words: Getting to the Heart of Your Communication Struggles*

By: Paul David Tripp



*Resisting Gossip: Winning the War of the Wagging Tongue*

By: Matthew Mitchell