

**WE CAN CONTROL OUR TONGUES!
THE CHOICE IS OURS TO MAKE!**

Psalm 141:3-4

INTRODUCTION: Many today wonder why our words are so important: Matthew 12:33-37. You may not think that your speech is very important to God but it surely is: Proverbs 18:21. Our God spoke this universe into existence by His spoken word: Genesis 1:3. As we go down through the days of creation it says "And God said!" Psalm 33:6-9. God's words and our words always bring results: Isaiah 55:11; Hebrews 4:12. Our words can create or destroy unity: Genesis 11:1-9. Our speech can be used either for good or evil purposes: Psalm 55:20-21; Psalm 140:1-3.

I. SOME AREAS OF SPEECH THAT NEED TO BE CONTROLLED!

The Word of God tells us that each of us needs to learn to control our speech: Ephesians 4:29. We must be careful of speaking evil or others: James 4:11-12; James 2:8. To judge another has the idea of weighing facts, hearing the evidence, rendering a verdict and passing sentence on another: Numbers 12:1-2. We are not to judge another but we are to warn others: Galatians 6:1; John 8:9-11. We must guard our tongues against repeating confidences others tell us about: Proverbs 11:12-13; Proverbs 26:20-26.

II. WHY IS THE TONGUE SO DIFFICULT TO CONTROL?

The first reason it is so difficult to control our tongues is that only a perfect person can do so: James 3:1-12. The second reason it is so difficult to control our tongues is connected right to our heart which is naturally evil: Matthew 12:34-37. So what's wrong with our hearts? Jeremiah 17:9-10.

III. HOW CAN WE LEARN TO BETTER CONTROL OUR WORDS?

First, it can only be done as we submit ourselves to the leading of our Lord: Philippians 4:13. Our Lord is constantly working in us to help us control our tongues: Philippians 2:13. Our Lord will help us just as he did Daniel to control his diet: Daniel 1:3-8. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, He will work in our hearts to make them pure and that will cleans our speech: Proverbs 3:5-8. We must submit our wills to our God's will for our lives. As He controls our will, He will also control our mind and our emotions: Romans 12:1-2. As our Lord works in our hearts it will affect our speech to be more of a blessing and less of a curse to those around us.