
TALK IT OVER

A FAITH THAT HELPS ME FILTER WHAT I SAY

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't – Part 16

Book of James

Rick Warren

July 26, 2020

Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

Message Notes

WHY DO I NEED GOD'S HELP FILTERING WHAT I SAY?

1. MY TONGUE DIRECTS WHERE I GO.

Talk It Over

"We can control very large horses by putting a small bit into their mouths. By controlling their mouth, we can turn the whole animal whatever direction we want it to go." James 3:3

Question 1

Why is it important in today's multi-communicative way of life to be especially intentional with what we say and how we say it? Share of a time you said something that seemed harmless but caused irreversible damage—or a time where a friend or family member said something unintentionally damaging to you.

2. MY TONGUE CAN DESTROY WHAT I HAVE.

Talk It Over

"People can tame all kinds of animals and birds and reptiles and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison." James 3:7-8

Question 2

Why is it difficult to control our words and what cautions must we take living in a multi-cultural, urban environment?

3. MY TONGUE DISPLAYS WHO I REALLY AM.

Talk It Over

"We use our tongue to praise our Lord and Father, but then we use the same tongue to attack and curse other people who've been made in the same image of God! So blessing some people and cursing others comes out of the same mouth! Listen, my brothers and sisters, this should never happen!" James 3:9-10

Question 3

Should there be a difference between the "tongues" of someone who knows Christ, and someone who doesn't? Besides knowing Christ, what gives us even more reason to love and not curse?

POINT: My deeper problem isn't my tongue. It's MY HEART!

Talk It Over

"Can fresh water and bitter water come out of the same spring? No! Can a fig tree bear olives or a grapevine produce figs? No! And you can't get fresh water out of a polluted well! How humbly you live, not how you talk, shows your wisdom. If you harbor bitterness or jealousy or self-centered bias in your heart, you shouldn't boast that you're wise.....If you harbor bitterness or jealousy or self-centered bias in your heart, you shouldn't boast that you're wise. You deny the truth to make yourself look better. That's not wisdom; it's earthly, it's unspiritual and it's inspired by the devil. James 3:12-13, 15

Question 4

Why is a person's speech more important or influential than other aspects of that person's behavior?

Question 5

Discuss how a person's deeper problem would stem from their heart (attitudes) rather than their tongue, or the words they choose. How do words reflect what lies in a person's heart?

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION? EVERY DAY...

1. ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CHANGE MY HEART.

Talk It Over

"Rid yourself of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit!"

Ezekiel 18:31

Question 6

How do we rid ourselves of our offenses? Who is the source of our new heart and spirit?

Question 7

How might turning away from our past by turning our hearts over to God improve our relationships?

2. ASK HIM TO HELP ME MANAGE MY MOUTH.

Talk It Over

"Lord, help me control my tongue; and help me be careful about what I say." Psalm 141:3 (NCV)

Practice:

Take a moment and write out a prayer, asking God to reveal areas of your heart that need to be changed and moments where you may need to ask another's forgiveness (maybe for something in the past and also going forward).

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*