

PLAIN SPEECH

Volume 1 – Issue 50 – 28 September 2008

“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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WHAT TONGUE DO YOU SPEAK IN?

It has been truly said by one whose name I cannot recall that, “Wars are started, not with bullets, but with words.” None can argue that words have a certain power all their own. No doubt God knows this in that He had the following words recorded: “Death and life are in the power of the tongue...” (Prv. 18:21).

The simple truth is that man has great trouble controlling his tongue. Centuries ago it was written: “For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: but the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (Js. 3:7-8). Note the passage stated that **no man** can tame the tongue. The idea is that man, apart from God (by his own unaided efforts), never has been and never will be able to control his tongue.

However, for the redeemed (1 Cor. 6:20) things should be different (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 10:5; Mk. 7:20-21). Sadly, many who call themselves Christians thoughtlessly “flap” their tongues as they blindly travel down the broad way (Mt. 7:13). Yes, I have met so many people who have been baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38) who apparently think that they are free to say just about anything short of a curse word (hey, I have known some who throw expletives around as well).

Now it’s time for self-examination (2 Cor. 13:5). Several different kinds of tongues are listed below. Examine the information, evaluate your speech in light of God’s Word, and make any necessary changes.

Do you speak with a...

Flattering Tongue – “...their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue” (Ps. 5:9).

Lying Tongue – “...they have spoken against me with a lying tongue” (Ps. 109:2).

Proud Tongue – “The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things” (Ps. 12:3).

Froward Tongue – “The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out” (Prv. 10:31).

Naughty Tongue – “A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue” (Prv. 17:4).

Sharp Tongue – “...their tongue a sharp sword” (Ps. 57:4).

Rebellious Tongue – “...their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory” (Isa. 3:8).

Raging Tongue – “...their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue...” (Hos. 7:16).

Deadly Tongue – “...Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words” (Jer. 18:18).

Empty Tongue – “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

Backbiting Tongue – “The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue” (Prv. 25:23).

If you speak in any of the tongues listed above you must confess your sins and repent (1 John 1:9; Rom. 6:1-6; et al).

If you were to die today (and it could happen), could you unequivocally say that you would not have a ...

Tormented Tongue – “And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame” (Lk. 16:24).

Let’s all work hard to use our tongues aright and commit to remember the following set of verses:

“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles” (Prv. 21:23).

“... every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (Matt. 12:36).

“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue... this man's religion is vain” (Js. 1:26).