

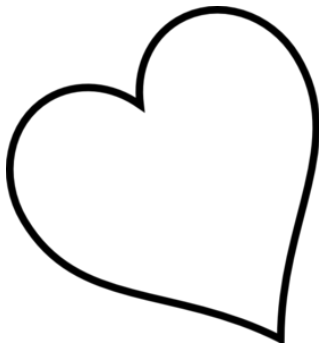
The Powerful Tongue

3-16-2017



Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

Our hearts can go in two different directions or paths: They can be steered by God's thinking. Or, they can be steered by our fleshly, natural thinking. It all depends on what is in our heart - our person. What is in our heart will steer our behavior. What we are thinking will usually come out of our mouth! So, the heart drives the tongue. Our tongues are little but powerful! They can be very wiggly-waggly! They can wiggle-waggle for good or for bad!



Proverbs 15:1-2 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, but the mouth of fools spouts folly.

Proverbs 15:1-2 The Message Bible A gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue kindles a temper-fire. Knowledge flows like spring water from the wise; fools are leaky faucets, dripping nonsense.



When our tongues are being driven by divine thinking, God the Holy Spirit is in the driver's seat. We get divine thinking from the Bible through the power of the Holy Spirit. He teaches us about His fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control! This is God's wisdom!

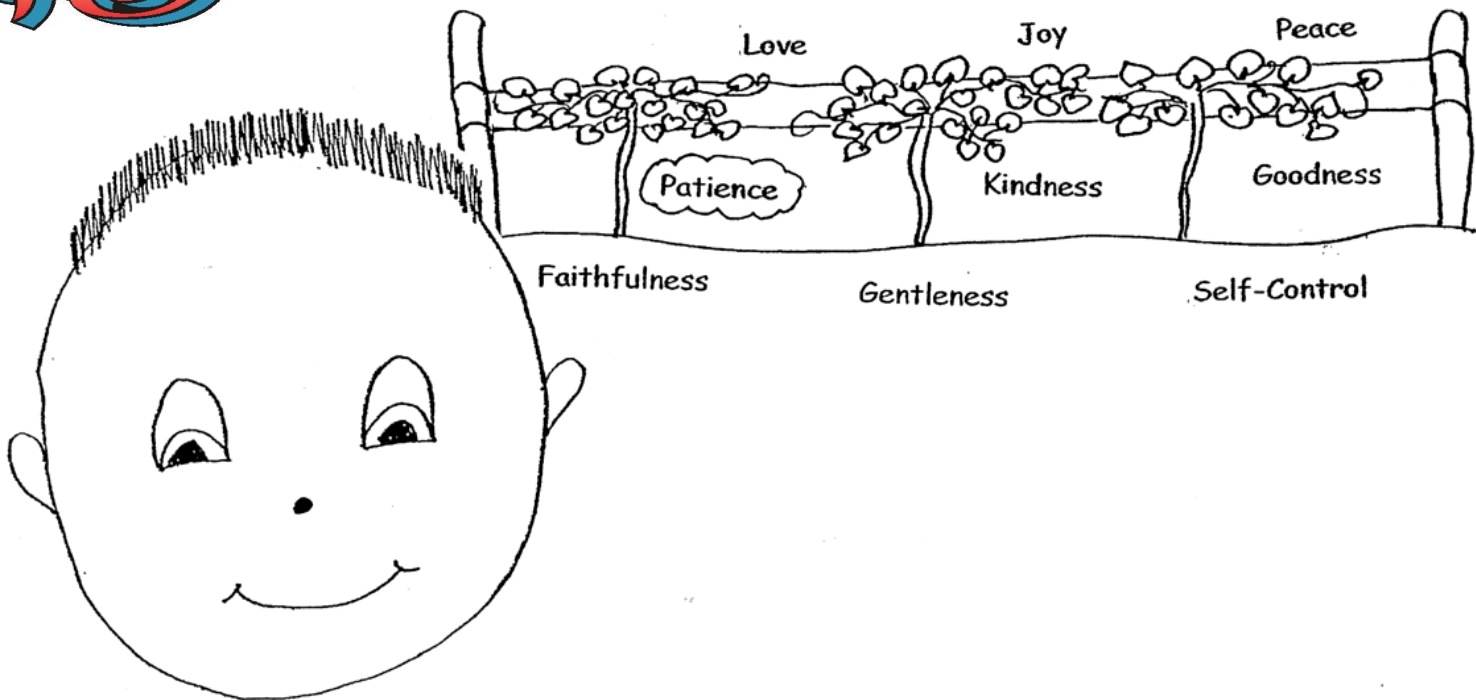


Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law [we can't do works to experience them; we study the Bible and the Holy Spirit gives us understanding of them so we can experience them].

It takes time to learn and understand God's wisdom. He gives us all the time we need because He wants us to experience His life now on earth! As we learn bit by bit about God's thinking, His wisdom, we are to behave according to it. You can tell the wisdom from God by the fruits that come from it; we will speak with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,



faithfulness, gentleness and self-control! Bit by bit, God will grow this fruit in us. If we are using God's wisdom, the fruit of the Holy Spirit will be seen by others. And we know to give the glory to God! He has done all the work!



Romans 16:27 To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

The Holy Spirit is in us battling the flesh! *Galatians 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things you please.*

We get angry at times and want to shout out at another person! It may be someone in authority over us, family members or friends.



When our hearts line up with God's thinking, the Holy Spirit will help us to not use our tongues to speak against those who are in authority.

He will help us speak kindly to family members and friends. When you catch yourself wanting to be disobedient or unkind, turn to the Holy Spirit and tell Him you want to use His strength to obey and be kind; tell Him you want to use His strength to say the right thing! I've been there, turned to Him and He got me through the situation. It was amazing!

Titus 3:1-2 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one [speak evil of no one], to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

God will allow situations where we get in trouble with our tongue. We might have arguments with friends, parents and other family members. This makes us miserable! The tongue can be awful! It can misbehave badly when it gets bad signals! And we can't tame it! *James 3:8 But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.*

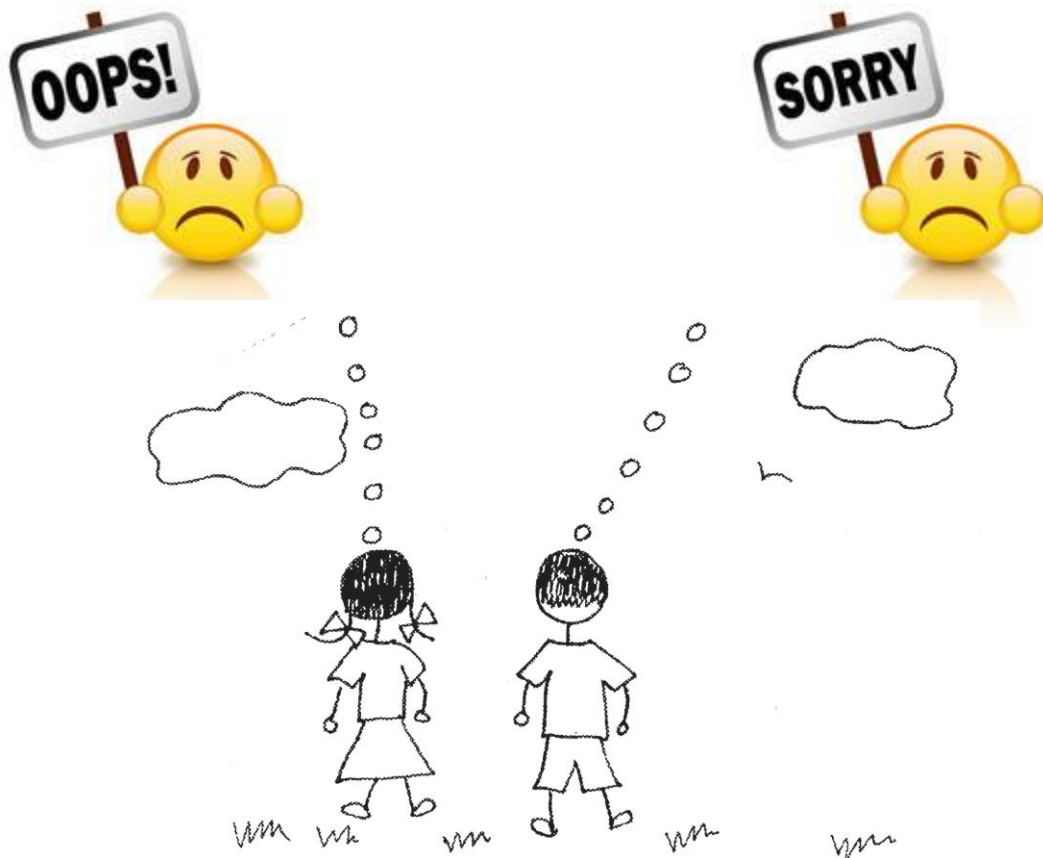
However, God has given us the Holy Spirit to send us good signals! He can tame the tongue with His power and the Word of God.

Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

The Holy Spirit needs to grow us so that we get to the point where we rely on God - at least most of the time! He does the work! We walk by His power. One day we'll be in a situation in which we usually would get angry with someone. However, this time we're able to hold our tongue! That's a good day! Thank You, Holy Spirit.



Once the tongue has said something, our words are out there! The words can't wiggle back into our mouth. Now, if we have said something good, that's fine. However, if we have said something bad, that can be hurtful to others. In that situation we can apologize. Our flesh will try to tell us: "Are you crazy? Why should you apologize to him/her?" We know why; God wants us to because it means that we realize we disobeyed Him and hurt someone. And we want that someone to know that we are truly sorry. That would be using the tongue for good.



Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

If we are not getting the picture of the right way to use our tongue, God will allow us to be brought to our knees. He'll allow us to use our tongue in a harmful way until we are completely miserable. This is so that we will know we have to depend on Him to take us out of our misery! We need to use His viewpoint. Our behavior and words come from what we are thinking. When we finally realize that our behavior is awful and we can do nothing without God, it is very relaxing! We can rely on God the Holy Spirit to tame our tongue! We can use our tongue to praise God!



Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.