



Say Part 1 :: *Beware of Mouth* :: Andy Stanley

INTRODUCTION

All of us have had moments when we wish we could reach out and retrieve the words that just left our tongue. And all of us have had our lives been shaped by the words spoken to us. Over and over again we are reminded of their power and how one of the one of the most important skills we can learn is to learn how to constantly monitor them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have negative words that have been used of you shaped your life?
2. When have you used words that were damaging to someone else? What effect did these words have?
3. Read James 3:2-6. Why is it so important that we watch what we say? What do our words say about us?
4. Read James 3:7-12. Why is it so difficult to control the words that we use?
5. How can you begin to take responsibility for the words that you use?
6. What should you do once you find yourself using words that have hurt someone else?

THINK ABOUT IT

Commit these three verses to memory to help you in controlling your tongue:

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.
Proverbs 10:19

A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Proverbs 17:27

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, how can you surrender your mouth every day to your Heavenly Father? How can you ask him to help you use this incredible tool--your mouth--to do what he gave it to you for: to build up rather than burn down and to encourage rather than scorch?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. James 3:9-10