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# *The Surrendered Life*

## *Surrendering My Words*

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, July 8, 2018*

People May Forget What You Said, But They Will  
Never Forget How You Made Them Feel by Your Words

### **The Statement That Limits the Power of God in My Life**

#### I AM NOT THAT BAD

<sup>3</sup> We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. <sup>4</sup> And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. <sup>7</sup> People can take all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. <sup>10</sup> And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! <sup>11</sup> Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? <sup>12</sup> Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring. *James 3:3-12*

My Tongue Is...

Powerful 3-5

Perverse 6-8

Polluted 9-12

"Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. **So, get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.**"

*James 1:19-21, NLT*

### **It Is Never Love If I Am Destroying Someone's Spirit**

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits." *Proverbs 18:21, ESV*

"There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." *Proverbs 12:18, ESV*

I Am Either Destroying Others with My Words,  
or Strengthening Others with My Words

## My Words Matter

"I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak," *Matthew 12:36, ESV*

"If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless." *James 1:26, ESV*

### To Get My Mouth Under Control I Need to Surrender to God's Control

#### 1. I Admit My Hurtful Words Are Wrong

"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another... Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths ... And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." *Ephesians 4:25, 29-31, ESV* (See 5:4; Colossians 3:8)

#### 2. I Confess That My Hurtful Words Are an Act Against the Love of God

"Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins." *Matthew 3:5-6, ESV*

"But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth." *Colossians 3:8, ESV*

### Confession Without Action Is Self-Deception

#### 3. I Yield My Tongue to God

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." *Romans 10:9, NLT*

#### 4. I Replace Destructive Words with Grace

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." *Ephesians 4:29, ESV*

#### 5. I Guard Against the Next Time

"I said, "I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue..." *Psalms 39:1, ESV*

Who Do I Need to Go to And Apologize for My Words?