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Guarding

Words Matter

The Tongue's Power to _____

James 3:1 Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. **2** Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. *(NLT)*

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1 Timothy 3:2 So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife *[only have one wife]*. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. **3** He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. **4** He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. **5** For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? *(NLT)*

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2 Peter 1:3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. **4** And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. **5** In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, **6** and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, **7** and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. **8** The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. *(NLT)*

The Tongue's Power to _____

James 3:3 We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. **4** And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. **5** 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. *(NLT)*

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James 1:26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. *(NLT)*

The Tongue's Power to _____

James 3:5 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. **6** 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 *[for it will burn in hell (Greek Gehenna)]*. **7** People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, **8** but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. *(NLT)*

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Proverbs 15:28 The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking; the mouth of the wicked overflows with evil words. *(NLT)*

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Matthew 15:15 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Explain to us the parable that says people aren't defiled by what they eat."
16 "Don't you understand yet?" Jesus asked. **17** "Anything you eat passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer.
18 But the words you speak come from the heart—that's what defiles you. **19** For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. **20** These are what defile you. Eating with unwashed hands will never defile you." *(NLT)*

The Four Horsemen of the _____ Apocalypse

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Antidote: (1) I feel… (2) about what… (3) I need….

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Antidote: build a culture of fondness and admiration for each other, which, metaphorically, strengthens your relationship's immune system.

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Antidote: Take responsibility for your role in the situation, even if only partially responsible for the conflict.

_____

Antidote: STOP. Take a break. Re-engage.

Rules Of _____

- _____ the Start-Up
- Learn to Send and Receive _____ Attempts
- _____ Yourself and Each Other
- _____
- Address _____ Injuries

The Tongue's Power to _____

James 3:9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. **10** And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! **11** Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? **12** Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring. *(NLT)*

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Matthew 12:33 "A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. **34** You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. **35** A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. **36** And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak." *(NLT)*

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Luke 6:43 "A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. **44** A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. **45** A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart. **46** "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?" *(NLT)*

What Should We _____

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. **2** We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. **3** Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. *(NLT)*

Be _____

Seek _____

Seek _____

Be _____

Psalm 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. *(NLT)*