

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

May 16, 2011

### **The Untamable Tongue**

*(Talking loud & saying nothing)*

Who am I? I have no respect for justice. I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives. I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age. The more I am quoted, the more I am believed. I flourish at every level of society. My victims are helpless; they cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face. To track me down is impossible. The harder you try the more elusive I become. I am nobodys friend. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is nevr the same. I topple governments and ruin marriages. I end ministries set up by God. I ruin careers and cause sleepless nights, heartache and indigestion. I spawn suspicion and generate grief. I make headlines, headaches and heartaches! I make innocent people cry in their pillows. Even my name hisses. I AM GOSSIP.

**JAMES 3:1-12 NKJV** - (1) My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. (2) For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. (3) Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. (4) Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. (5) Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! (6) And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. (7) For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. (8) But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. (9) With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. (10) Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. (11) Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? (12) Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

The Apostle James compared the tongue to a fire that rages out of control, leaving destruction in its wake. All of us have learned through personal experience that careless, thoughtless words can cause great damage to ourselves as well to others. So we now know the danger of the tongue according to what the Apostle James is telling the Jews in the book of James. For with it we lie, curse and slander with it. Today, God is instructing me to tell His people to renew your mind or your way of thinking! (**ROMANS 12:1-2**) The following also gives application to defeating the devastation of the tongue.

**PROVERBS 21:23 NLT** – (23) Watch your tongue and keep your mouth shut, and you will stay out of trouble.

**PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9 NLT** – (8) And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. (9) Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

**JAMES 4:3-10 NLT** – (4) You adulterers. Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. (5) What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy? (6) But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but favors the humble." (7) So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. (9) Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. (10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

Do not live your lives with the mind set of that's just the way I am. Instead hear what God is saying and make your changes starting now! Remember, grown ups and children are paying attention to your speech. Renew your mind with His word. Only God can tame the tongue.

**ACTS 2:2-4 NLT** – (2) Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. (3) Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. (4) And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

LUKE 1:64

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

The faith we acknowledge expresses itself in our daily life.

