

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH -3
FEBRUARY 7, 2016

1. We must believe in our words. **JAMES 3:6** “Sets in motion the cycle of natural events that can lead to life or death.”
 - A. The teacher, **JAMES 3:1** – Teachers will be judged with greater strictness because their words can influence people in the right or wrong direction.
 - **JOSHUA 14:7-8** – Caleb inspired faith and love, the **10** spies inspired fear and unbelief.
 - B. The horse. **JAMES 3:2-3** – A horse that weighs over a thousand pounds can be controlled by a small bit. The rider controls the direction of the horse by using the bit properly.
 - Our tongue controls the direction of our lives.
 - C. The ship. **JAMES 3:4** – A small rudder controls the direction of a large ship. The pilot can avoid icebergs, rocks and shipwreck by properly using the rudder.
 - “Loose lips sink ships” is a slogan coined during WWII. It means an unguarded tongue can give useful information to the enemy which can be used to sink a battleship.
 - A loose tongue can also sink relationships, friendships, partnerships and memberships.
 - D. The fire. **JAMES 3:5-7** – Satan uses words to set in motion the cycle of events that can lead to death.
 - Remember Eve? “Hath God said?”
 - Remember Jesus? “It is written.”
2. By guarding our tongue, we guard our lives.
 - A. **PR. 13:3** – Our words can be productive or destructive. They can heal or hurt, give hope or discourage, build up or tear down, remove mountains or make mountains out of molehills. They can weaken or strengthen marriages, and set the course of ones life for success or failure.
3. Our words reveal our true character.
 - A. **JAMES 1:26** – Religious in the Greek is translated fear and worship God. If one claims to fear and worship God but refuses to control his tongue, he deceives himself and his fear and worship of God is in vain.
 - B. God created us with two eyes, ears and nostrils that help us observe our world. He gave us one tongue to comment on our surroundings. Could it be that God wants us to observe twice as much as we speak?
 - C. The law of sowing and reaping says we reap what we sow. If we sow peas, corn, peppers and tomatoes, that’s what we’ll reap. If we sow words of destruction, we reap it. If we sow words of life, we reap life. **PR. 17:27**

CONCLUSION:

We all have a choice to make. We can yield our tongue to our three major enemies – the devil, world and flesh or we can yield our tongue to speak God’s Word. Before choosing, remember **PR. 18:20-21** – We all will eat the fruit of our speech! Our confession of faith is rooted in what God said. Because He said it, we agree with it, and hold fast to it until it materializes!