



<b>DATE</b>	November 25, 2018
<b>SPEAKER</b>	David Smith
<b>TITLE</b>	Restless Evil
<b>SERIES</b>	Hearing and knowing what God says is only half of what it means to follow Him. We then need to apply what we know and act! Let's look at what James, the half brother of Jesus, says about giving Him authority in our lives, so we don't live halfheartedly.

The American writer Washington Irving wrote, "A tart temper never mellows with age, and a sharp tongue is the only edged tool that grows keener with constant use." In this first sermon of the series, David tackles one of the most difficult areas of Christian living – our words. Let's dive into James and see what God has for us there.

1. David shared several stories where a teacher or a coach spoke words that had a lasting impact. What have been the best (or perhaps the most hurtful) words anyone ever said to you that made a lasting impact? How have you been affected by someone else's words in a good or bad way?

#### **The dangers of the tongue...**

2. Read Proverbs 18:21 and discuss in light of what you just shared.

Read Proverbs 25:11. Compare and contrast this verse with the previous verse. How are aptly spoken words like apples of gold in a silver setting?

3. Read James 4:7. Have you ever considered that you ultimately are cursing the greatness of God when you use deadly destructive words toward others? How does realizing this truth speak to your soul?
4. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. How is submitting to God and resisting the devil two sides of the same coin? What things could you do to help submit and resist?
5. Have you thought about words and that we will all stand before God to take responsibility for them? Talk, text, written, social media, it ALL will matter! Read Matthew 12:33-37. If your whole life was being watched, heard, or noticed where would you change your actions or words or habits?

#### **Covenanting with your tongue...**

6. Read 2 Corinthians 2:14. How do you think making an intentional covenant with your tongue will spread the fragrance/aroma of the knowledge of Christ everywhere?
7. We are often unaware of the way our words are being received by others. Ask the people closest to you how you could be more affirming in your speech. How will you resolve to make a covenant with your tongue by following these guidelines from the book of James this week (pick one and try to be specific)?
  - a. Slow to speak; especially if angry – 1:19,20
  - b. Seek opportunities to speak kindly – 2:1-4
  - c. Resist an argument – 4:1
  - d. Encourage more than you critique – 4:11
  - e. Stop complaining – 5:9
  - f. Own up to failing – 5:16
  - g. Affirm unexpectedly; especially to family – 5:19,20

If we are merely people who listen to the Word yet fail to do what it says, does that make us hypocrites? Engaging in one component without the other isn't an effective and positive witness to those around us. Let's take the challenge to be more of a doer rather than a hearer only!