Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. May 20, 2018

**Getting Your Tongue Under Control**

James 3:1-12

**Key Truth:** The way we use words reflects our heart and demonstrates what we believe to be true about other people and God.

**A Warning to Teachers:**

1. Don’t be so quick to teach what you haven’t mastered.

A. Being a teacher necessitates a lifestyle of obedience.

B. Teachers affect many lives positively or negatively.

**The Heart of The Matter:**

1. James is really attacking the heart. **Matthew 15:10-20**

2. The mouth is the messenger of the heart. **Matthew 12:33-37**

**Illustrations of An Uncontrolled Tongue:**

1. A wildfire - The tongue can set the course of our destiny.

2. A unruly beast - The tongue cannot be tamed by mere

human strength.

3. Deadly poison - The unruly tongue defiles our life and

destroys relationships.

4. Inconsistency of character make us:

A. Religious hypocrites.

B. Contradictory sources of unfruitfulness.

C. An unrefreshing source of discouragement.

**The Key to Victory:** Admitting that you have a problem is a step in the right direction

**Taking It Beyond the Walls:** Admit your problem. Ask God to help you control and tame your tongue so that you can bless Him and build one another up. Apply the “Twelve Steps of Mouthaholics” to your life.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

This week we heard about the power and influence our words can have for the good or the bad. Fortunately for us, God has given us countless references throughout the Bible to help us understand how to use our words to be productive instead of destructive. Read each of the references in Proverbs below and jot down what each one says about the power of our words.

Proverbs 12:25

Proverbs 15:1

Proverbs 17:4

Proverbs 18:1-6

Proverbs 26:20

According to James, what does the tongue reveal about our hearts and our minds?

How do rudders on ships and bits in horses’ mouths relate to the tongue? What is James doing with this analogy?

How have you experienced your mouth making a big impact, either positively or negatively?

Under what circumstances are you most likely to let your mouth harm yourself or others?

Discuss the “Twelve Steps of Mouthaholics” with your group. What step do you need to take in order to experience victory over your tongue?