

Remnant Life Church
August 1, 2021
“Spiritual Warfare – The Tongue”
Pt 1
Luke 6:45

- Part 1 – Natural Verses the Supernatural
- Part 2 – The Drama of Spiritual Warfare
- Part 3 – You Have a God-Given Right to be Victorious
- Part 4 – Your Authority Given by Jesus

We begin this morning through the month of August a series on the tools and weapons of spiritual warfare

- I think some of these might not be what you would expect
- Because many of these weapons or tools are not designed primarily to inflict damage on the enemy or even defend yourself or your family
- Rather, it is the knowledge of what they are and how to use them that positions you for victory
- This morning we begin not with the least of them, but the most powerful – your tongue
 1. The Bible refers to the tongue 133 times in the NIV
 2. Most all of them on the importance of guarding and controlling its use

READ – Luke 6:45

- While the tongue certainly is the instrument of what we say, it is not the source
- In our study on servanthood last year, the foundation of the study was that serving others begins in the heart
- So it is also true with the words you say

Now, we will be talking about how the words you say greatly impact your ability to fight the spiritual battles, but before we examine that we must first understand where those words come from

- You might quickly answer that it is in the mind
 1. After all, our brains have a section that is called the speech center
 2. It controls the muscles of the mouth, tongue, and lips to formulate sound and words
 3. But this is the physiology of the tongue not the words themselves
- The formulation of those words originates in the heart – the good and the bad

Luke 6:45 presents two very different type of people – the good man and the evil man

- Now the word “man” in the Scripture, when used in this context, is not about gender
- The Greek *AHN-throw-pahs* – is the word for human, both male and female
 1. This is why when someone says that the entirety of the Bible is a sexist, chauvinistic book it shows their ignorance of the language and meaning
 2. Yes, the words for male and female are used in the Bible, but it is the original language and context that determines meaning

And so, it is the heart that determines what comes out of the mouth, not the mind

- Jesus' half-brother James writes of this when talking about the power of the tongue
- **James 3:11** - *Can both fresh water and saltwater flow from the same spring?*
 1. The obvious answer to that is "no"
 2. An evil heart cannot produce kind, loving, and righteous words
- This is why the heart of a man must be changed by the presence of God, in the person of Jesus Christ, and strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit
 1. **Jeremiah 31:33** - *But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD, I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.*
 2. **Ezekiel 36:25-27** - *Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.*
 3. **Titus 3:5** - *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*
- Jesus uses the analogy of the tree and its fruit to demonstrate the connection between the heart and the tongue
 1. Just as a tree produces fruit in keeping with its nature (an apple tree – apples; a fig tree – figs) so the same is true with people
 2. *How people speak most clearly reveals what is in their heart. Those who follow false spiritual teachers will manifest the same corruption that they do. Only those who follow the Lord Jesus Christ can produce the fruit of repentance that marks a transformed life. – John MacArthur*
- It is from the overflow, Jesus says at the end of the verse, that our words are formed
 1. Overflow means that means that the heart is at its capacity with the goodness of God
 2. So much so that our words reflect what is inside of us
 3. A Christian should not do gut-checks to determine how he/she is doing, they should do mouth-checks
 - It's very simple with a single question – what are the words that are coming out of your mouth?
 - Are they kind, encouraging, edifying, loving, supportive, joyful?
 - Or are they condemning, angry, cutting, sarcastic, and divisive?
 4. You can tell people all day long that Jesus lives in your heart and is Lord of your life but if your words do not reflect that, then you are fooling yourself
 - Remember the words of James, a spring cannot produce both salt and fresh water
 5. Jesus is saying that the words of our lips are, in the final analysis, the product of the heart.

So, if not a gut-check and we perform a mouth-check, what might that look like?

- Perhaps these 6 questions can be of help (a handy and easily referenced check-list)
 - 1. How do you respond in a crisis?**
 - In times of great stress what are the words that come out of your mouth?
 - Do you suddenly change? Lose control? Rant and rave in a deep pit of negativity?
 - Glass half-full...
 - 2. What do you say when you become frustrated?**
 - Frustration is about lack of movement or change
 - This might be one of the most difficult to deal with
 - 3. Do you keep your promises and fulfill your verbal commitments?**
 - The integrity of the spoken word has been all but obliterated in our society today
 - Truth is optional and relative to a situation
 - What about you?
 - Do you do what you say you are going to do?
 - Do you hold to your word or go back on it when it suits you?
 - 4. How do you handle power and authority?**
 - Does your position cause you to talk down and demean others?
 - Leadership is not about power it is about relationships
 - 5. How do you treat your spouse, children, grandchildren or other family?**
 - Does the excuse, “Well, their family” somehow absolve you of guarding your words?
 - Those closest to us should receive the most loving words, not strangers
 - 6. How do you respond when people disagree with you?**
 - Again, one of the most difficult
 - If you use our culture as the model you just scream louder than the other person
 - Softball game incident...
 - This is perhaps the most true and accurate measure of the condition of your heart
 - Do you always have to be right, vindicated, and the winner?

The words you speak are generated by what is in your heart

- Your words reveal what is in your heart
- It is also a very true and accurate revelation