

# Bits, Rudders, & Sparks

PART TWO



PUT A **BIT** IN IT

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

SERIES BIG IDEA:

**Our words have power, and we are responsible to harness them for the benefit of others.**

<sup>33</sup>“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. <sup>34</sup>You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. <sup>35</sup>A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. <sup>36</sup>But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. <sup>37</sup>For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Matthew 12:33-37 (NIV)

- **My heart influences what I say.**
- **I am held responsible for every word I speak.**

<sup>7</sup>You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: <sup>8</sup>“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>9</sup>They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”

<sup>10</sup>Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup>What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.”

<sup>12</sup>Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?”

<sup>13</sup>He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. <sup>14</sup>Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” <sup>15</sup>Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.”

<sup>16</sup>“Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. <sup>17</sup>“Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?”

<sup>18</sup>But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”

Matthew 15:7-20 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**What I say and what I do need to come from a heart that’s made new.**

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup>We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

James 3:1-2 (NIV)

- **Those who have control over their words have control over their actions.**

<sup>3</sup>When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup>Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. <sup>5</sup>Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. <sup>6</sup>The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

James 3:3-6 (NIV)

- **Small words make a big difference.**

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<sup>7</sup>All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:7-8 (NIV)

- **No human can tame the tongue.**
- **Only the Holy Spirit can make us new and give us the discipline to speak life with every word we speak.**

<sup>9</sup>With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup>Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. <sup>11</sup>Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

<sup>12</sup>My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

James 3:9-12 (NIV)

## **I will choose words that bring life.**

- **Do I need to bridle my words? (Bit - Obedience)**
- **Do I need to steer my words? (Rudder - Direction)**
- **Do I need to quench or drench with my words? (Spring - Life)**



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## **TEACHING SUMMARY:**

Have you ever heard someone say that they are going to fake it until they make it? It is something that many of us have probably done when learning a new skill or jumping into a new game. We just play along until we pick up on what is actually happening around us.

But that doesn't work when it comes to our words. In time we won't be able to fake it any longer. Our words and actions will follow our heart and until our heart is made new by Christ our broken nature will win.

But there is good news, Christ offers a new life and a new heart for those who repent and believe.

When we have a heart made new by Christ we can offer words that give life backed by a heart full of true life.

Have you handed over control of your heart and tongue to the Holy Spirit? Have you tapped into the source of true life? He is waiting to make you know and let your words spill over with His life.

## **TALK IT OVER:**

What kind of words are the most encouraging to you?  
What kind of words give life?

Have you ever met anyone who used their words to give life to others? What stood out about them?

Do you believe that with the help of the Holy Spirit your words can give life to others?

Who in your life do you feel could benefit from hearing life-giving words right now?

What is one next step you can take today?

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**

- Mon: Psalm 51:1-12  
Tue: Isaiah 29:13-16; Jeremiah 17:9-10  
Wed: Proverbs 4:23-27; Ephesians 4:29-30  
Thu: Romans 8:1-11 (ESV)  
Fri: Romans 8:12-17; Philippians 1:9-11  
Sat: Philippians 1:27-28; Jude 1:17-25