

Heroes of the Faith Shared Struggles

Moses: “spoke rashly with his lips”

Psalm 106:32-33

Isaiah: “woe is me... I am a man
of unclean lips” Isaiah 6:5

Job: “I lay my hand on my
mouth” Job 40:4

Peter: “I will never fall away”

Matthew 26:33

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How many words in a lifetime?

370,110,001.3 words

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When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent. —Proverbs 10:19 ESV

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¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

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⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness.

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The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

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¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. —James 3:1-12 ESV

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Examine the
Authority of the Tongue
James 3:1-5

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Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.
—Proverbs 18:21 ESV

Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.
—Proverbs 13:3 ESV

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Examine the Authority of the Tongue

- The Horse and Bridle
- The Ship and Rudder
- The Spark and Fire

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Expose the Injury of the Tongue
James 3:5b-8

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Expose the Injury of the Tongue
Gossip

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²⁷A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

²⁸A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

—Proverbs 16:27-28 ESV

The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

—Proverbs 11:3 ESV

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“I am more deadly than the screaming shell of the howitzer. I win without killing. I tear down homes, break hearts and wreck lives. I travel on the wings of the wind. No innocence is strong enough to intimidate me, no purity is pure enough to daunt me.”

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“I have no regard for truth, no respect for justice, no mercy for the defenseless. My victims are as numerous as the sands of the sea, and often as innocent.

I never forget and seldom forgive. My name is GOSSIP.”

—Morgan Blake

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Expose the Injury of the Tongue
Flattery

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... a flattering mouth works ruin.

—Proverbs 26:28b ESV

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Expose the Injury of the Tongue
Boasting

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As it is, you boast in your
arrogance. All such boasting is evil.
—James 4:16 ESV

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Expose the Injury of the Tongue
Criticism

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There is one whose rash words are like
sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise
brings healing. —Proverbs 12:18 ESV

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“A sharp tongue is the only tool that
grows keener with constant use.”
—Washington Irving

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Expose the Injury of the Tongue
Deception

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Put away from you crooked speech,
and put devious talk far from you.
—Proverbs 4:24 ESV

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¹⁶There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, ¹⁹a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. —Proverbs 6:16-19 ESV

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Expose the Injury of the Tongue
Profanity

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Exodus 20:7
Ephesians 5:3-7

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Exercise Responsibility For Your Tongue
James 3:10-12

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Exercise Responsibility For Your Tongue
Recognize the Root Problem

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⁹...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. —Romans 10:9-10 ESV

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Exercise Responsibility For Your Tongue

Request God's Help

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Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth;
keep watch over the door of my
lips! —Psalm 141:3 ESV

Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart be
acceptable in Your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my Redeemer.
—Psalm 19:14 ESV

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Exercise Responsibility For Your Tongue

Reflect on What You Say

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The heart of the
righteous ponders
how to answer,
but the mouth of
the wicked pours
out evil things.
—Proverbs 15:28 ESV

TTrue?
HHonest?
IImportant?
NNecessary?
KKind?

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Exercise Responsibility For Your Tongue

Remember You Must Give an Account to God

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³⁴...out of the abundance of the heart
the mouth speaks. ³⁵The good person
out of his good treasure brings forth
good, and the evil person out of his evil
treasure brings forth evil. ³⁶I tell you,
on the day of judgment people will give
account for every careless word they
speak, ³⁷for by your words you will be
justified, and by your words you will be
condemned." —Matthew 12:34b-37 ESV

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