

"The Pillar" Part 4 | cfParis



Sermon Summary: "The Power of Your Words"

In this message, the focus is on James 3 and the power of our words. Pastor Cory challenges us to recognize that we are all influencers, whether we realize it or not. Our words shape the world around us, impacting others either positively or negatively. Just as a small rudder steers a large ship, our tongues direct the course of our lives and relationships.

The sermon highlights how our speech reflects the condition of our hearts, emphasizing that words can bring life or destruction. While James acknowledges that no one can fully tame the tongue on their own, he reminds us that through faith and reliance on God, we can choose words that build, heal, and inspire.

Additionally, the message encourages believers to take responsibility for witnessing and leading others into belief. A simple framework for sharing faith is provided, reinforcing that evangelism isn't about knowing the perfect method but about trusting in God's ability to work through us.

Key Themes:

- The Power of Words – Our speech can build up or destroy, and we must use it wisely.
- Influence and Responsibility – Everyone influences at least 10,000 people in their lifetime; the question is, what kind of impact are we making?
- Words Reflect the Heart – What we say reveals what's inside us (Matthew 12:34).
- The Tongue Is Difficult to Tame – James says it's impossible to fully control our speech, but through God's strength, we can speak life.
- Faith Makes the Impossible Possible – Our faith, when expressed through words, has the power to move mountains and inspire transformation.
- Witnessing 101 – Evangelism is about faith, not just methods. We are called to actively share the gospel in everyday conversations.

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Words carry weight – What we say can either build others up or tear them down.
- ✓ You are an influencer – Whether introverted or extroverted, your words impact thousands.
- ✓ Self-control in speech is only possible through God's help – Rely on the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Speaking life should be a daily habit – Encouraging words can transform someone's life.
- ✓ Witnessing is part of our mission – We don't need a perfect script, just faith and willingness.

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Discussion Questions:

Icebreakers:

1. What's a phrase or saying that has stuck with you throughout your life? Who said it and why does it matter to you?
2. Have you ever had an experience where someone's words (positive or negative) significantly impacted you? What happened?

Exploring the Message:

3. James 3 compares the tongue to a small rudder that steers a large ship. Can you think of a time when words (yours or someone else's) completely changed the direction of a situation?
4. The sermon emphasized that "words kill, words give life." How can we be more mindful of the impact our words have on others?
5. The message pointed out that we are all influencers, whether we realize it or not. Who has been a strong spiritual influencer in your life, and what made their influence impactful?
6. Jesus said, "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of" (Matthew 12:34). What do you think your words reveal about your heart?
7. James warns against hypocrisy—praising God with our mouths while tearing others down. How can we strive for consistency in our speech, both in public and private?

Application-Based Questions:

8. One key takeaway was that we cannot control our tongues on our own, but only through God's help. What are some practical ways we can invite the Holy Spirit to guide our speech?
9. The sermon introduced Witnessing 101—a simple way to lead others into belief. What are some natural opportunities in your life where you could start sharing your faith more intentionally?
10. As a challenge, think of someone in your life who could use encouragement. What specific words can you speak to build them up this week?

Notes for the Group Leader

- Encourage your members to attend the Compass class and the Practicing the Way course. Those happen on a rolling basis - check the App or Website for details.
- Also don't forget to take attendance for your group using the cfParis App. Add any pertinent notes, praise stories or prayer requests.