

# FAITH THAT WORKS

Order of Service | January 26 & 27, 2019

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Welcome/Greeting	
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## A Faith That Works Speaks Life

### James 3

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.<sup>2</sup> Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

<sup>3</sup> We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth.<sup>4</sup> And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong.<sup>5</sup> In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.

But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.<sup>6</sup> And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

<sup>7</sup> People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish,<sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.

<sup>9</sup> Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God.<sup>10</sup> And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!<sup>11</sup> Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water?<sup>12</sup> Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

Don't speak for God unless God has spoken.

Words direct our course and deter-mine our destination.

Speech and silence, appropriately expressed, are the marks of a faith that speaks life.

Speech and silence, inappropriately expressed, have the power to bring death.

What is impossible for people is possible for God.

Contradictions in our speech are not consistent with a faith that speaks life.

## So What?

### 1. Learn the value of silence.

Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent. **Proverbs 17:28 (NLT)**

### 2. Watch the tone of your speech.

A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare. **Proverbs 15:1 (NLT)**

### 3. Think before you speak.

The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking; the mouth of the wicked overflows with evil words. **Proverbs 15:28 (NLT)**

### 4. Words can change everything.

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. **Ephesians 4:29 (NLT)**

## A Faith That Works Speaks Life!

Going Deeper on your own: Pastor Rusty talked about the importance of learning the value of silence to help us better speak words of life. Take time this week to practice a word fast by limiting your words to ones that bring hope, peace, joy and life. This is not always so easy to employ, so use the acronym of **S.T.O.P. - Slow** down and listen to what you are being told. **T.h.i.n.k.** before you speak and ask yourself if what I am about to say is **T**True, **H**elpful, **I**important, **N**ecessary, and **K**ind. Then **Offer** your response but do so with words that bring life. Finally, **Process** your emotions about the conversation. Remember that it is never too late to speak life. God is in the business of making all things new.