



# The Voice Of Truth

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## The Power of the Tongue

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The Bible teaches "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue*" (**Prov. 18:21**). "*He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction*" (**Prov. 13:3**). The tongue is capable of great good. "*A wholesome tongue is a tree of life... and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!*" (**Prov. 15:4, 23**). It is also capable of great harm. Therefore David resolved. "*...I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me*" (**Psa. 39:1**). The tongue is powerful to destroy as to edify; the poison, or antidote, depending on how it is used. A thoughtful and kind tongue can encourage the weak and exhort the wayward. It can give life! A foolish tongue can destroy personalities and reputations. It can kill! Every one of us carries this powerful instrument every day!

In **James, chapter 3**, there is a general warning to all Christians about the need for controlling the tongue. Let us look at some improper uses of the tongue.

1). **Profanity** is certainly the exercise of an uncontrolled tongue. The name of God is sacred and is never to be used with irreverence or disrespect. (**Psa. 111:9**). Yet, most Christians use a number of euphemisms which profane the name of God. Surely this is done out of ignorance and not out of a conscious

desire to take the name of God in vain. The words "*gosh*" and "*golly*" are euphemisms for the name of God. "*Gee*" or "*gee whiz*" is a euphemism for the name of Jesus. **Webster's Third New International Dictionary** so defines these words. The child of God must take care to keep his tongue free from all profanity.

2). **Hypocrisy** with ones tongue is also a woeful danger facing Christians. One may sing "*Take time to be holy*" and then never read his Bible or pray. One may sing "*More about Jesus*" and then forsake the services of the church. This is hypocrisy in that an individual professes one thing and practices another. Let us now consider some commendable uses of the tongue.

1). The Christian should use his tongue for **Prayer**. Paul exhorts Christians to "*pray without ceasing*" (**1 Thess. 5:17**). Pray for the people who need salvation. Pray for the weak and wayward brethren. Pray for the sick.

2). The Christian should use his tongue for **Praise and Thanksgiving** (**Heb. 13:15; Jam. 1:17**). Every good gift is from God and he is to be praised and thanked for his goodness.

3). The Christian should use his tongue to **Teach the Gospel** to the lost. It is the responsibility of

every Christian to teach people to believe and obey the gospel of Christ. We must try to restore the erring brethren. If a child of God really believes the gospel is able to save men from the terrors of eternal hell and secure them a heavenly inheritance, he will be searching constantly for opportunities to teach it!

*"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceived his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (Jam. 1:26). "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." (Prov. 18:21).*

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*Truth is truth even if no one believes it.  
Error is error if everyone believes it.*

*If a hypocrite is between you and God,  
He must be closer to God than you are.*

*A pint of example is worth a barrel full of  
advice.*

*A faith that will not take us to worship will  
not  
Take us to heaven!*

*Don't be afraid of opposition –  
A kite rises against the wind, not with it.*

*Don't think you can ignore the Lord in this  
life and  
He will give you a crown in the Life to come.*

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## **“Singing Praises to God”**

By Jimmy Pettigrew

God established the church of Christ in the first century and directed Christians to meet every first day of the week to worship Him. This worship included prayer, the Lord's Supper, giving, teaching, preaching, and singing.

God has always been specific about the kind of worship which man is to offer Him. He was specific in His instructions to Cain and Abel

(**Gen. 4:4-7; Heb. 11:4; 1 Jno. 3:12**), Nadab and Abihu (**Lev. 10:1-3**), Saul (**1 Sam. 13:8-14**), David (**2 Sam. 6:1-11; 1 Chron. 15:1-13**). He has been no less specific to people today (**Jno. 4:23-24; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7; Eph. 5:19; Col. 2:18-23; 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim. 4:13**). His specificity means that we must comply with those specifics if we expect to be acceptable to Him. To fail to comply with the specifics is to depart from the faith (**1 Tim. 4:1-3**) and become unfaithful and unrighteous (**1 Jno. 3:7; Heb. 11:4**).

The passages in the New Testament that shed light on the specifics of the musical worship which God desires are **Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16**, which say **SING!** From these two scriptures we learn the "truth" (**Jno. 4:24**) about the musical worship, that is, what is and what is not authorized by God. What are these verses **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16** telling us?

First, the worship assembly is under consideration since a "one to another" situation is described. You cannot "speak to yourselves" unless all the selves (church members) are present together. Second, the church itself is to sing. I sing to you while you sing to me and vice versa. Yes, each saint who is a member of a local congregation has the obligation to sing! No one can do this worshipping for you! The phrase "to yourselves" (**KJV**) or "one to another" (**ASV**) is a reciprocal, reflexive pronoun. It refers to interchange of action (Dana and Mantey, *A manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*, pp. 131-132). In other words, you sing to me while I sing to you. We all are commanded to sing; it is your responsibility. Whenever God stipulates for a certain activity to be done by each saint in the assembly, He means for it to be done by each saint! This is why chorus groups, quartets and special singing groups are proven to be unscriptural! Also, these verses show we have no authority to stomp our feet, or clap our hands. God has told us very specifically that He wants us to sing words to each other which are used to teach and admonish one another. Anything more or less is vain worship (**Matt. 15:7-9**).