

“Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” James 3:3-5 KJV



The ailerons of an aircraft are a small portion of the wingtip yet, at the pilot's touch, can flip two tons of aircraft with ease. 100,000 tons of ocean liner can be turned with a rudder less than 5% of its size. A tiny spark can burn down a forest! *“He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.”* It is repetition of gossip which harms. Gossip is the epitome of low self-esteem and cruelty. Its practice is always to enhance one's own image with the destruction of another's. “Did you hear/know?” What evil have we allowed to cross our lips and enter our ears, today? In our Assemblies, gossip is often disguised as a prayer request. It may seem harmless, but it is often in concern we offend the most. Our “kidding around” often causes deep wounds. We seldom think of humor as threatening, but think: How does the entertainment industry best promote immorality: Sitcoms? God's Word commands, *“I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.”* We don't need to know every lie to know Truth! Knowing evil is unnecessary! Evil knows no bounds! God flooded the entire earth and saved only eight souls in Noah's day, because *“the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and...every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY.”* Our LORD said, *“As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”* Do you ever see anyone actively pursuing Truth and God? I challenge you to find righteousness in your daily encounters. I dare say you may not find it for days. Most are too busy acquiring life's pleasures to even acknowledge God except maybe for Holidays and then it's a token nod on their way to a drunken party or a glutton's feast! *“The love of money is the root of all evil”* and it is the most sought commodity of men! The trouble with money is; just a little more is never enough! It may seem I've strayed from the topic, but how else are we convinced to pursue evil? By wealth or the words of a friend. We seldom heed our enemy's advice except for the satanic whispers of thought we deem our own which we utter and do without hesitation or regard to consequence!

A man's own words will surely tell,
If they are set on fire of hell,
For from the heart the mouth will show,
The choice of path on which he goes! -CGP

The ill-considered words of friends often lead us astray! Are you guilty? Carefully measure every word, including your own, by the standard of God's Word. Whether words are kind or even helpful matters little. The Psalmist declared, *“Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret (unknown) faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous (impulsive) sins; let them not have dominion over me.”* Keep God's Word in your thoughts and keep yourself from evil!

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart (thoughts), be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my Strength, and my Redeemer.” Psalms 19:14 KJV