

The Power of the Tongue

by CARRIE JUDD MONTGOMERY

"DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE." Prov. 18:21.

In considering some of the hindrances to a holy life, we are constrained to warn God's people, from His own Word, against the awful danger of an unbridled tongue. Not only have we seen people lose their own spiritual power through the wrong use of the tongue, but we have known of poisoned arrows sent to many other hearts through one untamed tongue. Surely, "death and life are in the power of the tongue," and it is well for us all to realise the solemnity of this truth.

The unsanctified tongue is called a "fire," which is able to defile the whole body and to set on fire the whole course of nature, and these awful words are added, **"IT IS SET ON FIRE OF HELL"** (Jas. 3:6). So that one such tongue, burning with hell fire, keeps on lighting more such fires until the extent of the fearful conflagration can never be estimated.

Again, it is said that "the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, **FULL OF DEADLY POISON**" (Jas. 3:8). Now, when it has been necessary to have in our homes any **"DEADLY**

POISON," we have had the bottle labelled in large letters and often a skull and cross bones have been printed on the label, that all coming near that bottle should be warned in time. We have set the bottle on the highest shelf in the cupboard, out of the possible reach of children or ignorant people and even then, perhaps, we have hardly rested with this "deadly poison" in the house. And just to think that this deadly poison that we have such a horror of, is used by the Word of God as the very name for this unbridled tongue! Not merely poison, but "deadly poison."

If we could only have such tongues and mouths thoroughly labelled as the bottle of poison is, perhaps so much harm would not be done; but people possessing such tongues are often supposed to be **EARNEST CHRISTIANS** and those who listen to them are unaware of their terrible danger. Thus, the evil is communicated, the "deadly poison" does its work in a soul, the hell fire spreads, and awful indeed are the results.

We can all remember when we have come in contact with such a tongue, and perhaps we can remember when we possessed such a tongue ourselves. In either case, we have a vivid remembrance of that fiery sting and the pain and the deadly wound caused by it, until we fled to Jesus Christ for the antidote—His own precious cleansing blood. We found out the truth of those words, "The tongue can no man tame," but when we took Jesus Christ as our Sanctifier, we also found out that He was quite able to tame the untamable tongue and to make it filled with life instead of death, sweetness instead of bitterness, blessing instead of cursing.

"If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his

own heart, this man's religion is vain" (Jas. 1:26). These are words of solemn import. Does it mean that if you and I do not bridle our tongues we only "**SEEM** to be religious"?

There is One who hears all the unkind criticisms, the unloving remarks, the harsh judgments often uttered in whispers behind the backs of those who are thus attacked. He knows it all, for the psalmist has said, "There is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether" (Ps. 139:4). That dear Christian worker, whose influence for good you have thus tried to weaken, does not hear you, perhaps, but his God hears. He who has said, "Touch not Mine anointed, and do My prophets no harm," is listening to your words against His servant, and, perhaps, you will soon hear Him saying, in a voice of judgment, "What shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue?" (Ps. 120:3).

I am greatly impressed with the fact that God does deal in judgment with those half-hearted Christians who backbite and unkindly criticise His fully consecrated children. And I believe there is a most important truth here for those who are trusting the Lord to be the Physician of their bodies. You may wonder at your failure to claim healing from the Lord, or you may be surprised at the sudden sickness and weaknesses that overtake you. We cannot judge your individual case, but in a general way we would suggest that very often the failure and sickness come from a secret grudge or an unbridled tongue, with which the Lord is seeking to deal through this form of chastisement.

The connection between a sanctified tongue and divine health in the body is shown clearly in 1 Peter 3:10: "For he that will love life and

see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile." And the words of this text call to mind another precious and deeply solemn thought. The hundred and forty-four thousand spoken of in Rev. 14, as standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion, these who are the "first fruits," unto God, who are "virgins" and "without fault," are also described thus, **"IN THEIR MOUTH WAS FOUND NO GUILLE."** Beloved, are you looking for the coming of the Bridegroom in the air? Do you hope to be one of that limited and highly favoured number that John saw on Mount Zion? Then you must trust Jesus now and here to root and ground you in His perfect love, that when you speak it shall be from the fullness of a cleansed and sanctified heart so that in your mouth shall be "found no guile." Thus shall He give you the "tongue of the learned," spoken of in Isa. 1:4, that you may "know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary," and as He creates the fruit of your lips (Isa. 57:19) so shall they "drop as the honeycomb" (Song of Sol. 4:2), bringing Christ's own sweetness and blessing home to hungry hearts.

"Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (Ps. 141:3). "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer" (Psa. 19:14).

DO NOT LET THIS LEAFLET DIE - - PASS IT ON

NO CHARGE is made for the leaflets. The continued Production and Circulation depend entirely on **FREE-WILL OFFERINGS** of those who use them and of Interested Christians.

16th Thousand in Australia.

Leaflet No. 89, "The Deeper Life Publications,"

Private Box 3372, G.P.O., Sydney.