**Who’s In Control?**

**Text - James 3:1-18**

***(James 1:19) So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;***

**The power of the tongue**

Don’t take a position of leadership in church unless you are prepared to be honest, pure, and loving in your lifestyle. Leadership is a privilege, and with privilege comes responsibility.

Indeed, it is a privilege to be an elder, a deacon, a Bible schoolteacher, but it is also an awesome responsibility. ***(Luke 17:1)"It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!***

Man can control horses, he can control elephants, and he can control whales; why can’t he control his tongue?

**The potential of the tongue.**

***(Psalms 34:13) Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.***

***(Matthew 12:36) "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.***

When you get upset or angry with someone is using foul language the best you can do?

Caution: ***(James 5:12) But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes," be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.***

Why is it that we can let others get us to a point of losing it? ***(Proverbs 20:3) It is honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.***

**The tongue is powerful,**

Each man has the potential to control his tongue, and when it is controlled it will manifest purity from above. ***(Matthew 5:13) "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men***

The wisdom from above is first pure; therefore, the tongue tapped into the source above will work to quench the fires of hell rather than spreading them.

How do we show our purity of heart? Jesus said, (Matthew 15:18-20) ***"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. {19} "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. {20} "These are the things which defile a man.***

***(Colossians 4:6) Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.***