

# A Matter of Life and Death!

by Theodore Epp

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*The power of our words can bring either life or death, and it is essential to use our tongues wisely.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 19:14, Proverbs 10:19, Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 18:21, Proverbs 21:23, Matthew 12:36-37, Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 4:6, James 3:1-6

**Topics:** "The Power of Words", "Controlling the Tongue"

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## Description

Theodore Epp emphasizes the profound impact of our words in his sermon 'A Matter of Life and Death!', drawing parallels between fire and the tongue. He illustrates how words can hurt deeply, spread quickly, and consume lives if left unchecked, much like a fire. Epp warns that a single bitter word can lead to irreparable damage, and encourages believers to use their tongues wisely to avoid causing harm to others. He highlights the biblical truth that the power of life and death lies in our speech, urging Christians to be mindful of their words to prevent spreading gossip and negativity.

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## Transcript

James 3:1-6

Consider four parallels that a fire has with words spoken by the tongue: It hurts, it spreads, it consumes, but it can have a good use under control.

It only takes one false or bitter word to hurt deeply. In fact, the hurt may be so deep that recovery is impossible.

Just as fire spreads, so do spoken words. Some people are always willing to listen to destructive words about others, and they spread the words further so the damage becomes even more extensive.

Just as fire consumes, so do words spoken by a tongue that is out of control. Fire will destroy anything combustible that lies within its path. Words, too, have been known to destroy careers and lives. This is especially seen in the news media when political viewpoints are at stake.

We who know Jesus Christ as Saviour need to think solemnly about this matter so our tongues are not used to the disadvantage of others. Proverbs 18:21 says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit" (NASB).

Think of it! The power of death and life reside in the tongue. And the last phrase of this verse especially applies to those who spread gossip: "Those who love it will eat its fruit."

"Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles" (Prov. 21:23).

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/theodore-epp/a-matter-of-life-and-death/>

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