

Be Careful to Control Your Tongue and Eyes

by Zac Poonen

We must control our tongue and eyes, repent of our sins, and seek the fullness of the Holy Spirit to live a life that honors God.

Duration: 20:58

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:13

Topics: "Spiritual Discipline", "Heart Repentance"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of the unspoken desires of our hearts in prayer, highlighting how God answers according to the true longings within us. It discusses the significance of not bringing dishonor to God's name and the need for continuous surrender and repentance in our Christian walk. The message also addresses the consequences of sin, the importance of controlling our tongues and eyes, and the need to seek the Holy Spirit's help in overcoming sinful tendencies.

Transcript

If all of us would have one prayer uppermost in our heart, even if we don't actually pray it every day, if it is in our heart, there is a song in English which says, prayer is the soul's sincere desire, whether it is spoken or not spoken. What we say with our mouth is not necessarily the prayer that God hears. There could be an unspoken desire in our heart which is stronger than what we pray with our tongue.

And that is why many prayers are not answered, because God answers according to the unspoken desire of the heart. Man looks on the outward appearance, listens to the tongue. So, in our heart, there should be one prayer, the one that Jesus taught us.

The Lord be thy name. Lord, I don't want to do anything that will bring dishonor to your name. Because that is the unspoken longing of our heart all the time.

We're not speaking it, but we have this tremendous desire that I never, never want to bring dishonor to God's name by anything I say or anything I do. You'll find a tremendous difference in your life. Many of you who are seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit continuously, you'll experience that continuously.

I don't mean a once for all experience. You know, when Nathan came to David, he read it just now, after he sinned. One of the things that Nathan the prophet said to David was, you read in 2 Samuel 12 and verse 13, David said to Nathan, yeah, I admit I have sinned.

You know, it took nine months. It's amazing. It took nine months for David.

You know, because he committed adultery and the baby was born nine months later. It took nine months for David to realize that committing adultery with somebody's wife, killing her husband, and marrying her was a sin. Imagine, how can anybody be so blind to this? You commit adultery with somebody's wife, kill the husband, marry the man, marry the woman, and you still don't feel it's a sin.

The longing that David had when he was a young man slowly disappeared. When he was a young man, you know that David wrote many of his psalms before he was 30 years old. Because you read at the top of some of the psalms, when he was running from Saul to some cave, and many of the psalms when he was running away from some king when he pretended to be mad, it was all before he became king, before he was 30 years old.

I'm sometimes amazed how a person younger than 30 years old could write scripture, which is a blessing to people today, and how the same man when he was 50 commits adultery, kills the woman's husband, marries her, and he's still not convicted of sin. How is that possible? That is because it can happen to us. Think of your own life when you started out.

We read about Job. You know when Job said, I do not lust after a woman, his 10 children were living in their own houses. Remember, he's a grown-up man.

Old Job was probably more than 130 years old. A more than 100-year-old man saying, I made a covenant. I will not look after, look at a woman.

He had kept that. I mean, Job was probably richer than David. It says he was the greatest man in the east.

And yet, he kept his eyes pure. He was watchful. He feared God and he was upright.

And not only that, he brought up his children in a proper way, all 10 of them. You read there what we read, that what he said was, perhaps my children have sinned in their hearts, not externally. You read that in Job chapter 1. Maybe in their hearts, in their thoughts, they didn't blaspheme God externally.

They were having this feast. And in their thoughts, they may have sinned. What a concern this man had that his children may have sinned in their thoughts.

Today, we have a generation of people who are not even bothered when they themselves sin in their thoughts. I have a burden that my children should not sin in their thoughts and to pray for them. How many people pray like that today for their children? Lord, my son is working in a dangerous place.

There's a lot of wickedness there. Please protect him that he won't even sin in his thoughts. Yeah, it's amazing what that man Job was.

David, on the other hand, he became king and had so much money. And gradually, what happens over a period of time when wealth increases, I'll tell you this, when wealth increases and comfort increases, we begin to become careless in our thoughts and begin to sin, which we never did in our younger days when life was tough. And we were struggling to survive.

We were earning so little and no job and running around seeking God. Those days, we were careful. But once we have settled down and got a good job and we're well off, that's when David sinned.

He didn't sin when he was running for his life, when he was a poor person strumming the guitar and looking after his sheep. I think for many of us, when we started out our Christian life and we were poor and struggling, it was easier. And David said he had sinned and Nathan said to David, OK, 2 Samuel 12, 13, OK, the Lord has forgiven you.

He's taken away your sin. Doesn't that mean all your problem is solved? No. That is God's mercy.

But you have to reap what you have sown. Your child will die. Why does a child die when God has forgiven your sin? A man commits sin and gets the disease of AIDS.

He prays and God forgives him, but he dies of AIDS. I've seen that happen. Born again believer.

In his unconverted days, he got AIDS, really forgiven, born again. He died and went to heaven, but he died of AIDS. You have to understand God acts in mercy.

But we still have to reap what we have sown. Your sin is forgiven. But you will still reap what you have sown.

Think, for example, if you spend many, many years watching pornography. And then you repent. The Lord says all your past sin is forgiven.

But for the next 30, 40 years. You will keep on having dreams of the things that you watched in pornography. They'll never leave you.

They'll torture you at night. You will reap what you have sown. You can't escape it.

It doesn't mean your sin is not forgiven. The Lord's taken away your sin, but your child will die. Please remember this.

That God taking away our sin. Does not mean. That on this earth, we will not reap what we have sown.

If we have done foolish things. And taken advantage of God's goodness and say, it's OK, I'll confess and he'll forgive me, of course, he'll forgive you. But you will reap what you have sown.

Don't forget that. You can lose your temper at home. And ask the Lord to forgive you.

Of course, he'll forgive you. But you keep on doing that. You'll never get victory over your anger.

You'll die without ever getting victory over your anger. And you can sit in CFC and talk about the new covenant is absolute rubbish. So we reap what we have sown.

If you're careless with your eyes. You're going to have problems in your dreams at night. That will torture you.

You'll reap what you have sown. But you can confess, Lord, I'm sorry, I slipped up. Forgive me.

Forgiven. Remember what Nathan said. The Lord has taken away your sin, but.

You will reap what you have sown. That's why we need to be careful. You know, the two things which we sin with the most.

Our eyes and tongue. And that is why when the Lord. Gave the Sermon on the Mount and he said in Matthew 520.

Your righteousness must be greater than the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, the scribes and Pharisees had an external righteousness. Matthew 520. And he said, I'll tell you.

Where your righteousness must be greater. I'll give you two examples. First, your tongue and then your eyes, what he said.

Your righteousness must be more than the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees first in your tongue and then in your eyes. Let's leave aside all the other things. The Pharisees say, don't commit murder.

I say with your tongue. Matthew 522. Don't be angry.

It starts in the heart. Number one, step two, you say something to your brother or husband or wife or anybody in anger, and then after some time you say something more. You know, all of the people who get angry know this.

It starts in the heart. And then you say something. And then you go away and you say, no, I haven't told him enough.

Go back a second time and tell him some more. See exactly what happened was described in Matthew 522. You're ready to go to hell.

Ready to go to hell. How many people believe that? You believe Matthew 522 that if anger starts in your heart and you say something and you still don't judge yourself, you go and again go and say something. You are guilty enough to go to hell.

Then you go and pray. No, you can't pray. Go and settle your matter with that person.

Will the Lord forgive you? Yes, the Lord will take away your sin. But the thing which God wanted to deliver you from, you will never be delivered from. And there'll be eternal loss in our life because of this uncontrolled tongue.

Which we will discover in eternity. You think that forgiveness dealt with everything. Yeah, forgiveness dealt with the past, but you reap what you have sown.

What God wanted to do through you on earth could never be accomplished. I believe there are people who could have been prophets and apostles and godly women who never got there because they took sin lightly because of forgiveness. They didn't realize that you're forgiven, but you'll still reap what you have sown.

And the second sin, Jesus said, is with the eyes. The Pharisees only thought about adultery. But I say to you with lust with your eyes.

You're guilty. These are the two areas Jesus spoke about. And that is in Matthew 528.

And if you're right eye offends you, tear it out. And then I would add to that after that with one eye. You lust with that eye also.

Tear that one also out. Otherwise, your whole body will be thrown into hell. I'm absolutely convinced.

That most men do not believe this. They do not believe. That if you keep on lusting, you can end up in hell.

Strictly speaking, they should scratch out that verse from their Bible and believe what all the other rest of Christendom believes. Your sin will be forgiven. Remember what Nathan said.

Sin is forgiven. But your child will die. And there's a reason also given there.

Nathan told David. Because of this. The enemies of the Lord have blasphemed against him.

When you lose your temper at your wife or husband, you think nobody's watching. There are demons who are laughing in your house at that moment. And there are angels who are hanging their head in sadness when they see that.

You think what you when you watch pornography on your cell phone or your computer, nobody's watching. Nobody may be in the room, but the demons are there. Aha, great.

Now I can torture this fellow's mind for a few more years. Or you watch a movie. Which has got about 10 seconds of some filthy scene.

10 years later. You will forget the story which you saw for two hours. But you remember that 10 seconds and you confess it, your sin is forgiven, but you will reap what you have sown.

So these are the reasons why. We must and then the Lord's name is blasphemed by those demons, they go up to God after watching you do all this. Say, Lord, this is the guy who calls himself your child.

And not only that, Lord, this guy says he belongs to CFC. For his holiness, this is supposed to be a holy sister. I believe there's a great need for us to repent many times.

I repent every day of my life. God is my witness. It's not of these sins that I mentioned, you know, once you go past second, third standard, you're not battling with addition and division and all.

You go to more difficult things in mathematics when you go to college and graduate. So sin is not at the same level, but you never finish with sin. As you grow more and more, there are many other sins that you want to battle with.

But you'll never come there. You're always living in kindergarten. If you're satisfied with, I got pass marks in first standard.

Or you fail in first standard and say, never mind, I can do it again next year. Same test. No, how long do you want to sit in first standard? How long do you want to sit in second standard? Don't you want your children to move on? Press on and see the example of Job, how he was so careful with his eyes.

An Old Testament man. That's like some village person who didn't have proper schooling, who studied on his own, sat under lampposts and studied, and went ahead of you, who had the opportunities to study in a college with rich parents who could send you here and there. He does better than you.

Job did better. We really need to repent. And say, Lord, help me to take these sins seriously.

That before I leave my earthly life, I've conquered these two things. I'll tell you honestly why I sought the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I said, Lord, I don't want other tongues.

I want my mother tongue to be controlled. Just control my mother tongue. See that God will help you to control your mother tongue.

Forget other tongues. Don't seek for it. I never sought for it.

God gave it to me because I sought to control my mother tongue. I could not control my mother tongue. Because I read in the Bible, in James 1, and if a man cannot control his tongue, verse 26, his Christianity is worth zero.

I read that. The paraphrase. James 1, verse 26.

If a man or a woman cannot control his tongue, his entire Christianity is worth zero. He got zero out of hundred in his Christianity because he could not control his tongue. And I also read that if a man can control his tongue, he's a perfect man.

That's what the Bible says. So I say, Lord, I want to control my tongue. I want to keep myself unspotted from the world, as it says in James 1, verse 27.

And we got a whole chapter on the tongue in chapter 3 of James, where he speaks about our blessing God, praising God, and cursing person. In James 3, verse 2. You can control your tongue. He's a perfect man.

So two verses. If I cannot control my tongue, my Christianity is worth zero. And if I can control my tongue, I can be a perfect man.

Do you know who wrote it? James, who spoke in tongues. But he doesn't tell you to seek for the gift of tongues. He says, seek to control your mother tongue.

And I want to say to all of you, dear brothers and sisters, ask God for the fullness of the Holy Spirit to control your mother tongue. And I want to say, God has helped me. An angry man from whom anger is gone.

I can control my tongue by God's grace. Let's bow our heads in prayer. We've heard some solemn things today.

Example of Job. How David's sin made the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme. Lord, these things are written for our instruction.

Help us to be watchful and careful. Help us to honor you, Lord, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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