



PAS HOPFAN

Pray-Act-Serve

House Of Prayer For All Nations

A Christian, non-profit Non Governmental Organization in the service of GOD and Mankind

www.pas-hopfan.org | info@pas-hopfan.org | Headquarters • Bangui, Central African Republic • Tel. +236 75 50 23 23 |
Contact in New York, USA • Tel. +1 240 755 4467

T
H
E

D
A
I
L
Y

B
R
E
A
D

Second release.

Issue 005 - February 28, 2014

How to Have a Better Control of Our Tongue



**“We have to be the reflection
of what we are teaching
others...”**

info@pas-hopfan.org

HOW TO HAVE A BETTER CONTROL OF OUR TONGUE?

(From a preaching by Pastor Léonard Gonitoua, Bangui, 2014.)



My brothers and sisters, I greet you in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, our King and Redeemer. Before we elaborate on our topic, let us read the Word of GOD in the Book of James, chapter 3, from verses 1 to 12:

1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. 3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."

We all have one tongue, and this Word is appealing to us and will help us to better control our tongue so that we do not use it the wrong way.

Teachers will be judged very severely

(James 3:1; Matthew 12: 36)

At the time of the New Testament, Jews were very interested in the teachings of the Law. Similarly, today, there are many people who are interested in certain things. James, by the presence of the Holy Spirit, wants to let them know that they should not rush to be among the great number of those who want to be teachers, because teachers will be judged very severely.

Today, we are keen on giving advice to others. While I am not opposed to you advising others, when exhorting them, we should be careful not to shock these people.

Yet, what do we see in our society, homes, and workplaces? We are teaching people,



telling them good things, but our behavior is different from what we are communicating to them through our mouth. If we act like that, we are going to destroy the faith of these people, who will see that we are deceiving them, putting them on the wrong track.

As good teachers, we have to be the reflection of what we are teaching others, to strengthen and encourage them. Not only did James say that these teachers will be judged or criticized by those close to them, but he also said that they will be judged severely. Judged by whom? By GOD.

Sometimes, many do not consider what they are saying to others. The words that come out of their mouths aim at only getting rid of their brothers/sisters, their wives/husbands or the other people surrounding them. We fulfill or respect only very little of what we say. This is a serious sin and one day we will appear before the Court of GOD, if we do not repent today.

Jesus Himself, in the Book of Matthew, chapter 12, verse 36, told us that **“men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.”** You will be condemned and justified by your words.

For instance, we emphasize the need to fast, but we, ourselves, do not fast. We ask others to repent, but we do not change ourselves. We ask people to get rid of anger, but we are unable to do it ourselves. We are deceiving these people by acting this way, and we will fall under the judgment of GOD.

And yet, the plan of GOD is not for you and I to perish, because GOD says that He does not like the death of a sinner (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:15; Ezekiel 33:11; Luke 15:7; Luke 15:10; 2 Peter 3:9). How many are those who lie to their children, their husbands, their wives, or who say things that they don't even consider or respect? We will account for every word that come out of our mouth if we do not put them into practice and if we do not do so for GOD's Honor and Glory.

Let us be led by GOD

(Psalm 119:9; Jeremiah 2:17; Jeremiah 10:23; Psalm 48:14)

GOD said that if we put bits into the mouths of horses, we can control their bodies. This Word is teaching you and I that if we are wise people, if we know GOD, and if we have

studied His Word, we should be able to say good things. If we do so, then our whole body can be controlled.



But we cannot be led by the Lord and, at the same time, hurl words full of wickedness and insults. The mouths of most children of GOD are full of hatred, wickedness, insults, or any other hurtful words. This testifies that these people are not led by GOD, have not received knowledge, and are still living in darkness.

If you and I have already received Jesus in our hearts, as our Lord and Savior, if we have already received the Word of GOD, good teachings and a good training, what comes out of our tongues should be different. But most of us, even responsible women/men, servants of GOD, we do not speak the language we should speak. This shows that we are far from the Truth, far from GOD. This also shows that we are still living in darkness.

Today, with this behavior, we tell lies and deceive others easily. And yet, Jesus said, in the Book of John, chapter 8, verse 44, that the one who lies is from the devil, because the devil was a liar from the beginning. Most of our businesses, our homes, our projects were built on lies. If we build something on a lie, then we are building such thing on the devil himself.

Yet, GOD said that if we listen to His Word and put It into practice, we are like those who have built their houses on the rock (Matthew 7:24-25; Luke 6:47-49). Even if the wind comes, these houses will not be destroyed. But if we build our homes, our future, even our degrees on falseness, when difficult times come, we will collapse and will be answerable to the Lord.

We need to be obedient to GOD

(Deuteronomy 11:26-28; 1 Samuel 15:22-23; Hebrews 5:5-10)

If you are already a responsible woman or man, your reasoning must change. If you are in a leadership position, you must be careful of what comes out of your mouth. Many people realize that those who are working for them are not obedient. Why? Because what comes out of their mouth does not match who they are by virtue of their position. This brings a lot of confusion. There are even rebellions in their homes because what they say to their wives/husbands or their children does not conform to who they are. On the other hand, they are proud because they continue to live in darkness, far from the Word of GOD.

GOD said that although ships are very large, they are steered by a small rudder in the hands of a pilot. How can this happen? Because those ships obey the pilots. But if we don't have within us a spirit of obedience...

Even today in our homes, the children do not obey their parents. The wife does not obey her husband, neither the husband his wife. Everybody takes his/her own direction and makes his/her own decisions. It is therefore difficult to find role models, exemplary

Christians in churches. Why? Because those Christians are like a disease similar to cancer, which cannot be guided, nor controlled, or directed.

If those ships, which were built by the hands of men, are steered by people, we, as children of GOD, need obedience to be led by GOD, no matter our condition.

If, during a football game, you, as the player on the field, do not obey the referee's order, the game's supervisor will not acknowledge your situation, no matter how good a player you are. What matters in a game is not only the way each team plays, but also how the rules are respected. GOD wants you and I to change the way we talk and speak the right language.

Our tongue should not be like a fire

(James 3:5; Proverbs 10:20; Proverbs 15:4)

Our tongue, what we say, is often the cause of many problems in our country, our homes, or our workplaces. What comes out of our mouth shocks our wives/husbands, our children, our families. Maybe today, many people hate us, but we protest saying that they do so for no reason. In fact, sometimes, those people hate us because of what we have said, because of the words that have come out of our mouths. Or sometimes, what we contemplate doing against those people can dig a hole or ditch that, in the end, could make us stumble.

My sisters and brothers, this is why the Word says that the tongue is like a fire. If you use a fire the wrong way, you can burn yourself. You can even burn your house. Today, many people are suffering because of their mouths. All their families, husbands/wives have moved away because of their mouths. Their family members are living in discouragement. Where those people are ruling, there is only terror, problems, worries and insomnia because of what comes out of their mouths.



To us, who are fathers, the Bible is asking that we sanctify our families with water through the Word. The word we are confessing can help us. The Book of Proverbs, chapter 15, verse 1 tells us that *“a gentle answer turns away wrath.”* Even if we are living with people with impure tongues, GOD will glorify Himself if we pronounce good, gentle words, in accordance with the will of GOD, instead of flattering words to say things that we will not achieve. It is better to say a few words and put them into practice, rather than a thousand words and promises that we will never fulfill.

As children of GOD, we must listen to His Word. And GOD told us that this pure Water (i.e. GOD’s Word) cannot produce impure water at the same time. (James 3:12)

Blessed are the peacemakers

(Luke 17:1; Matthew 5:9; Hebrews 12:14; James 3:9-10; Micah 3:5; Isaiah 9:6)



Jesus said in the Book of Luke, chapter 17, verse 1 that **“things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come.”** Today, there are many people who are shocked by the words of others, their friends or families-in-law, which are destructive, not constructive, words.

This is why, my sisters and brothers, as responsible persons at your workplaces, you should know how to speak to those who are working for you. You, who are a mother, a father or any other person with responsibilities, should know how to speak to your children or those surrounding you. But if you do not control the way you are speaking, you are going to destroy your good relations and the peace that is within you.

And yet, in the Bible, Jesus said: **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”** (Matthew 5:9) But if your language is just destroying the peace, then you are working in the camp of Satan to destroy the Kingdom of GOD. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6) And peace can be consolidated. When we say good things, when we fulfill our promises, the Lord will grant us His Grace and He will bless us. But if we do not do it, and if we take our words for empty words, GOD will hold us accountable one day and we will fall under His judgment.

GOD does not want us to die but to walk in His Grace in order to do what is pleasing before Him. Whatever our strength, our intelligence, our wisdom, we must be careful to ensure that whatever we do is in accordance with the will of GOD, to bring peace around us and communicate life to those who are surrounding us.

Jesus said, in Hebrews, chapter 12, verse 14, that we must endeavor to be in peace with everybody and look for sanctification. Without peace and holiness, nobody will see the Lord. If we say good things, the right words, we can calm down fury and extinguish many bad things. But if our language is disrespectful, irresponsible, my sisters and brothers, not only will we shock these people, but above all we will shock GOD Himself!

James said that we bless GOD and curse people with the same mouth (James 3:9-10). How many are those who, today, say good things about people who have given them something? But if those people do not give them anything, they just curse them.

This is exactly the behavior of false prophets: Micah, in chapter 3, verse 5, tells us that false prophets say good things if you feed them. But if you don't, they curse you and declare harsh words. But the real child of GOD must know that our mouth is like a weapon against the others. If we use it without discernment, we can even destroy the lives of those around us, and we will be found guilty before the Lord.

What pushed Judas to commit suicide was the words spoken by the priests. When he realized that he had already sold the Christ, he gave back the money he had received to that effect. But the priests told him: "What is that to us? That's your responsibility." Because these men spoke that way and did not assist someone who was in trouble, that very action pushed Judas into committing suicide. (Matthew 27:3-5)

If we were to keep a record of most of the diseases, stomachaches and all failures we are facing today, we would realize that these issues result from what comes out of our mouth. And yet, a gentle word can heal and comfort the soul. But a wicked word is a word from the enemy, which destroys. The Lords does not want us to live that way.

We must seek the Glory of GOD only

(1 Chronicles 16:28; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

It is not by accident that you are now listening to the Word of GOD. The Lord wants to talk to you. Haven't you hurt someone with your mouth? And what was your reaction after you have hurt that person?

Many are those who are proud because they have killed or destroyed someone verbally, or because their behavior has shocked someone. They glorify themselves for such result. But you should not do the same. Instead, you should repent.

What you should seek is not your own glory but rather the Glory of GOD. As GOD's Creature, all we should seek is to please GOD and to do only His will.



© P.A.S. HOPFAN/Prayer vigil in Bangui, CAR/2014

However, we use our mouth badly so that people are scared of us and notice and know who we are. This will not give us any profit. On the contrary, what we will get is eternal loss and remorse.



We must behave like those who have already received Jesus as Lord and Savior; what we say should testify it. But if we continue to pronounce harsh, wicked, and harmful words and to glorify ourselves because of our bad behavior, or because we have hurt someone else, we should repent and show right now to others who GOD is through our good behavior. You should not show off so that the others notice you. If you do so, then you are looking for your own glory.

As a daughter, son or servant of GOD, you must seek to glorify GOD. Jesus said: "My food is to do the will of my Father." (John 4:34). In addition, Jesus did not insult whosoever. One day, He even asked His opponents: **"Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?"** (John 8:46)

Unfortunately, many are saying: "Anger pushed me to talk this way." But the Bible says that the anger of a man is not the will of GOD. (James 1:19-20) The Bible also says that anger resides in the lap of the fool. (Ecclesiastes 7:9) Even if you are angry, you are not going to throw yourself and smash into a car. On the contrary, you will take care of yourself and be cautious. When you do something out of control, you are committing a sin before the Lord. Therefore, you should control your tongue and know what to say to others.

As you can see, the tongue is like a fire (James 3:6). For instance, you can say a few words that you will no longer be able to take back. It is as if someone was setting fire to a forest. That person will not be able to stop the fire. Maybe you have said something to influence people or to seek your own glory, but in doing so you have destroyed the lives of many people. And today, you are not able to resolve that situation. Before saying anything to anybody, you should think about it and wonder whether or not your words will hurt or help that person. But if you throw words without discernment, they will be like a poison as stated in the Bible (James 3:8); a poison kills people. The reason why we are afraid of snakes or scorpions, it is because those have in them poison that can kill us.

If you use poison against people around you, your neighbors, you are not a wise man/woman because the Bible says that a neighbor close to you is better than your

family members who live far from you (Proverbs 27:10). If danger erupts in the night, only those around you will be able to come to your rescue. If this happens, your neighbors may say: “That girl’s mouth does not say good things.” Or they could say: “That man is good; we never saw him insult anyone.” If you are like that man, then you will have GOD’s Grace and Blessing.

Now I am humbly asking those who glorify themselves for using their mouths to throw bad things, to bend on their knees and to ask for GOD’s forgiveness. And if you have hurt people because of your tongue, make sure that you repair what you have destroyed. GOD will forgive and bless you.

Receive this Word in the Name of Jesus.

Be blessed in Christ! ●

(From a preaching by Léonard Gonitoua, Bangui, 2012.)





What I have retained from this message:

THE DAILY BREAD is a publication of **“Pray-Act-Serve, House Of Prayer For All Nations” (P.A.S. HOPFAN)**, which is a Christian, non-profit Non Governmental Organization based in Bangui, Central African Republic. This Christian apolitical organization has three main objectives: To **Pray**, so that GOD’s will for every human being be done; To **Act**, as GOD’s tool to advance His work, including for mankind’s salvation and success on earth; To **Serve** GOD and mankind based on the example of our role model, Jesus Christ.

THE DAILY BREAD

is issued once every three months with a view to sharing with its readers the many and diverse messages that we can find in the Bible, the Word of GOD.



To receive this publication free of charge by email, write to info@pas-hopfan.org or fill in the registration form from our website www.pas-hopfan.org. The editorial staff of **THE DAILY BREAD** will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

In the meantime, remain in GOD’s Word, the daily Bread that we all need to live a life in abundance, as planned by GOD, and to go through the trials and obstacles that we face at the same time as we move forward.

In the Bible (the New International Version), GOD tells us the following about His Word, among others:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

“The Word became flesh.” (John 1:14)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (Colossians 3:16)

“How sweet are your words to my taste.” (Psalm 119:103)

“The word of our God stands for ever.” (Isaiah 40:8)

“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

“The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

“The word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

“The word of God lives in you.” (1 John 2:14)

“He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.” (Revelation 19:13)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalm 119:105)



This publication cannot be sold.

“**P.A.S. HOPFAN**” is a Christian, non profit Non-Governmental Organization based in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR). For more information, visit our website www.pas-hopfan.org or write to info@pas-hopfan.org.

You can also follow us on **Twitter** (@PASHOPFAN or @PASMPTN), **Facebook** (PAS Hopfan or PAS MPTN), and **Youtube** (PASHOPFAN Channel).

© 2014 P.A.S. HOPFAN/The Daily Bread/All rights reserved.