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IS YOUR RELIGION (FAITH) IN VAIN?

The title of this letter may seem strange but God's word says an amazing thing concerning this. God said in James 1:26 **"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."** This should be a wakeup call to all of us who believe God for the promises of His word in our lives. Most well meaning Christians do not fully understand the reality of how death and life are in the power of the tongue! (Proverbs 18:20-21) God says in Deuteronomy 30:19 **"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.** God said in 1Peter 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."** We all, of course, want to love life and see good days but many of us are unaware that our tongue is causing our faith to be in vain!

The prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 6:5 **"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."** Isaiah saw God's glory and the first thing God revealed to him was his unclean lips! Even the angels of God are restricted when we speak unbelief and evil things! Psalms 103:20 **"Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word..."** I believe, to a great degree, angels are activated by hearing the voice of God's word coming out of a "believing" believers mouth.

Science has even confirmed God's word concerning health and the importance of what we say. The medical profession has acknowledged through several studies that what we say sends signals and commands to our bodies, which respond accordingly. A recent study of some 2,500 terminally ill subjects, found that 87% of those who continued to say that they would recover and be well recovered as opposed to less than 35% of those who said they would not recover. God our Father said this same thing 2,000 years ago in His word. In James 3:2 God said **"If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect (mature) man, and able also to bridle the whole body."** James 3:6 confirms this **"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."** Again in Proverbs 12:18 **"There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health."** Proverbs 16:24 states that **"Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones."** and again in Proverbs 4:20-22 **"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."**

Our words are just as powerful in other areas of our life. Psalm 35:27 says **"Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant."** Read Mal. 3:13-14, see how God is grieved by our tongue!

We are to (James 1:22) **"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."** James 4:11 states: **"Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge."** Jesus said in Luke 6:45-46: **"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."** - Luke 6:46 **"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"** Take note that Jesus is relating disobedience to what we say! God said in Deuteronomy 1:27 **"And ye murmured in your tents, and said, Because the LORD hated us, he hath brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us."** The Hebrew word "murmured" is translated "stay in the same place" in STRONGS CONCORDANCE. The Father is telling us in His word that (Proverbs 16:23) **"The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips."** May God tame our tongue to produce life!

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