

*James 1:26-27 (NIV)*

*<sup>26</sup> If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

# The Tongue Test

- *Am I quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to get angry?*
- *Am I slow to listen, quick to speak, quick to get angry?*

**The Nature of my Words is  
*One Indicator* of the Presence  
or Absence of the  
Transforming Power of the  
Gospel in my Life.**

# The Nature of my Words...

*Matthew 12:34-35*

*<sup>34</sup> For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.*

# The Nature of my Words...

- *When I was born again, it was by the Word of truth (1.18).*
- *After I was born again the Word of truth was planted within me (1.22).*

# The Tongue is a Force to be Reckoned With!

- *My speech is a test of my will.*
- *My speech is a test of my heart.*
- *My speech is a test of community.*