

Our Tongue; part of the Body God has given us

1 Corinthians 12:14, "Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

An important part of the body is the tongue in our mouth.

The tongue is a muscular organ in the mouth, provides the sense of taste and assists in chewing, swallowing and speaking. It is firmly anchored by connective tissues to the front and side walls of the pharynx or throat and to the hyoid bone in the neck. However right now we are not interested in the physical formation of the tongue but rather as we use our tongue in daily conversation.

The Bible has some important statements about the use of the tongue and the mouth which God has given to all of us.

When is the last time you have given thanks to God for your tongue?

I thought of this last night and I could not remember ever giving thanks to God for my tongue.

Let us take a look at what God says about our tongue...

Power over life and death

Proverbs 18:21, "The tongue has the power of life and death."

An example is the words of a judge who pronounces a sentence of life or death on some one convicted in a court of law.

Tongue can cause one's religion worthless

Jame1:26, "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless."

Tongue compared to a fire

James 3:5, “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.”

Tongue cannot be tamed

James 3:7, “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.”

But praise God, His Holy Spirit can tame our tongue. But we must submit and surrender our tongue and mouth to the Lord.

*I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.*

*All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give,
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live*

Tongue given to praise the Lord

James 3:9, “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 must guard the tongue

Proverbs 21:23, “He who guards his mouth and his tongues keeps himself from calamity.”

Confess Jesus is Lord

Romans 10:9, “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

We must guide our mouth

Proverbs 16:23-24, “A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction. Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

Watch your mouth

Proverbs 4:24, "Put away perversity from your mouth,
keep corrupt talk far from your lips."

Our promise to the Lord

Psalm 145:21, "My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.
Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever."

Psalm 109:30, "With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD;
in the great throng I will praise him."

Psalm 89:1, "I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations."

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known,
your faithfulness, your faithfulness;
With my mouth will I make known
your faithfulness to all generations
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.*

Psalm 71:15, "My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation all day long,"

A prayer concerning the words of my mouth

Psalm 19:14, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in
your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Psalm 51:15, "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise."

Shall we open our lips and mouth and sing together "To God be the Glory"

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory great things He hath done.
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son.
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear His voice.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice.
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son.
And give Him the glory great things He hath done.

2. O perfect redemption the purchase of blood.
To every believer the promise of God.
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon received.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice.
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son.
And give Him the glory
great things He hath done.

3. Great things He hath taught us,
Great things He hath done.
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son
But purer and higher and greater will be,
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice.
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son.
And give Him the glory great things He hath done.