

# Gossip is a Poison and a Parasite to Your Spirit

James 3:8-12: **But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet *water* and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so *can* no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.**

Be careful what you do with your mouth and what you say about other people. The most dangerous toxin known to mankind is to permit corrupt communication to come out of one's mouth. The gossiper is their own worst enemy. Everything they say about others in critical tones will come back to them. Satan will have an inroad into their life and will take them captive with whatever he chooses if they don't repent.

Don't let poison come out of your mouth. Gossip is like a parasite that can enter into your life. It will make you sick, cut off your covenant blessings, and ultimately shorten your life. Just like in the natural, a person can take in a parasite and not even know what happened until it is almost too late.

I knew of a pastor who went on a missionary trip. He got sick, came back to the states, and died. Shortly before he died, the doctors diagnosed a parasite that he'd picked up that had gone undetected. Just as germs, viruses, and transmitted diseases can be picked up in the natural and can go undetected until it's too late, the same can happen spiritually.

If you don't detect gossip, and allow it to go unnoticed without dealing with it, it will rob you of your spiritual authority, and your prayers won't have power.

Miriam was a prophetess (Numbers 12:1-16). She would have died had someone not interceded for her. Criticism, gossip, unforgiveness, anger, bitterness, resentment, and fear are like spiritual

parasites that are always trying to enter your life with one purpose in mind: *their purpose is to destroy you.*

The stories we have in the Bible, like those about Miriam, Simon, and Ananias and Sapphira are recorded for our admonition, and are examples of what could happen to any believer (pgs.15 - 17). The more time you put in the Word and in prayer, the less comfortable you're going to be around gossip. If you don't immerse yourself in God's Word and in prayer, some of these so-to-speak parasites can enter into your life undetected. The enemy will be able to get in under the radar. If he can do that, he can hit you with a fiery dart, because the shield of faith will not be in the position to protect you. Faith works by love. Galatians 5:6: **...but faith which worketh by love.**

Gossiping and sowing discord among the brethren are some of the worst things a believer can do. It can be discouraging and depressing, and it should grieve your spirit just being in the presence of many Christians because when you're around them, they usually talk about and judge others. You try to change or redirect the conversation, but after a while, you're glad to get away from them.

There are people I love, and would like to visit and spend time with, but I know every time I'm around them, they want to criticize others, make fun of ministers of other denominations, and talk about things that should never be talked about. It's so sad, because you miss the person, and you love them, but because of the judgmental spirit they have, you find yourself wanting to avoid the situation of being with them.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

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