

# Help Prevent Forest Fires

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## I. Introduction.

- A. There are many arenas of testing.
- B. One of the most important areas of testing involves the tongue. (Proverbs 21:23; 10:19; 18:21)
- C. Text: James 1:26.

## II. The tongue is a fire.

- A. We are not to set ourselves above the law.
- B. Judging others is rebellion. (James 4:11-12)

## III. Controlling the tongue.

- A. Prayer. (Psalm 141)
- B. Fill your heart with the word of God. (Luke 6:45-46)
- C. Re-evaluate one's own convictions.
  - 1. God is sovereign. The alternative to belief in God's sovereignty is bitterness. (Genesis 45:8; 50:20; Romans 8:28)
  - 2. The Bible is the Word of God and is adequate.
  - 3. The individual is valuable. (I Corinthians 12:18)
  - 4. God has called everyone to be a servant. The alternative is interpersonal conflict. (Mark 10:43-45)
- D. It is important to know where we are headed and not be discouraged by where we are at with our convictions. (Psalm 37:6, Exodus 14:14, Proverbs 8:9, Acts 24:16, Ephesians 4:29)

## Application questions:

- 1. Why does James call the tongue a "fire?"

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2. Which tip for controlling the tongue do you think is most helpful?

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3. When have you seen the tongue destroy others? How have you learned to control the tongue through negative and positive experiences? Explain.

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