

CONTROLLING THE TONGUE DEMONSTRATES YOUR WILLINGNESS TO CONTROL YOUR ACTIONS

James 2:18 We show that we have genuine faith in Jesus by our good works.

James 3:2 Controlling the tongue is evidence of a desire and ability to control our other actions as well.

Matthew 12:35 A good person produces good words from a good heart.

Only a person indwelt by the Holy Spirit has a good heart. Only a good heart produces good words and good actions.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 The works of each believer will be tested by fire (an inward appraisal of the character of our works).

Matthew 12:36 Any idle word of sinful character will be burned up as well as unworthy works. We make choices of how we build on the foundation which is Christ in our lives. When we cooperate with works initiated by the Holy Spirit we produce encouraging words and good actions.

Matthew 12:37 The words of a believer reflect his willingness to thrive in the love of Jesus by obeying His commandments. The words of an unbeliever will always condemn him because he is not indwelt by the Spirit to empower right words and right actions.

Matthew 12:35-37 These words of Jesus pertain to both believers and nonbelievers because both will face judgment. Believers will not be condemned to separation from God. Unbelievers are condemned to eternal separation from God.

An evil person produces evil words from an evil heart and is condemned by them.

A believer indwelt by the Spirit is righteous (a good person) because of the work of the Spirit in his life. He produces good words from a good heart.