

WORDS that Set the Course

More than we realize, the words we _____
direct our lives more than we want to admit.

When we put bits into the mouths of horses

to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large

**and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very
small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.**

*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 body, sets the whole course
of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.**

James 3:3-6

Our words have the potential to . . .

P _____ 12:6 & 13

*A fool's mouth lashes out with pride, but the lips of the wise
protect them. Proverbs 14:3*

*Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves
from calamity. Proverbs 21:23*

You don't have to _____ trouble on yourself.

Our words have the potential to (have). . .

P _____ 12:14

*From the fruit of their mouth a person's stomach is filled;
with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied. Proverbs 18:20*

You don't have to _____ windows of opportunity.

[Anger, Fear, Pride, Selfishness, Doubt] can burn the bridges of
[Influence, Opportunities, Relationships, Possibilities]

P _____ us trustworthy. 12:17-19

*There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to
him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent
blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick
to rush into evil, ¹⁹ a false witness who pours out lies and a
person who stirs up conflict in the community. Proverbs 6:16-19*

You don't have to _____ people to doubt you.

P _____ with God. 12:20-22

*For whoever would love life and see good days must keep their
tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹ They must
turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.
1 Peter 3:10-11*

You don't have to _____ God's joy & peace.

P _____ for others. 12:25

*Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.
Proverbs 25:25*

You don't have to _____ the discouraging crowd.

Optional Readings:

Do you find God's Word trustworthy?
Psalm 19⁷ 111⁷ **Isaiah** 45¹⁹ **Matthew** 10^{15 23 42}
Mark 14^{9, 18, 25, 30} **John** 8^{32, 34, 40, 44, 45, 46, 51 & 58} 16^{7, 13, 20, 23}
1 Tim. 1¹⁵ 4⁹ **2 Tim.** 2¹¹ **Titus** 1⁹ 3⁸ **Rev.** 21⁵ 22⁶