

What about the Tongue?

62.

When Isaiah, confessed previously unconscious sins of which he became aware in the presence of a Holy God, he cried: *“I am a man of unclean lips.”* A ‘seared’ conscience becomes sensitized when we honestly and brokenly come before our Holy God: *“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison . . . Out of the same mouth proceeded blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be”* James 3:8, 10.

I am master of my unspoken words but I am a slave to the words I have spoken—angry words; boastful words; critical words; deceitful words; envious words; flattering words; gossiping words—the list could continue!

At the point of Isaiah’s problem of his ‘unclean lips’, the Lord responded: *“Then flew one of the seraphim . . . having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar”* Isaiah 6:6. Yes, the live coal was taken from **the altar—the place of sacrifice where the blood was shed**. With brokenness and honest confession of sin and failure, Isaiah, who had been undone, was now made over anew. He was no longer dependent upon ‘his own ability’ but, ‘totally dependent’ on the living God!

‘The fire of Pentecost’ can never fall on lips where ‘the fire of hell’ is already burning. Only an open and honest confession of ungodly words, thoughts and deeds can bring a cleansing of the lips and a renewed commission to the life!