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# The Three Battlegrounds by Francis Frangipane

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## Chapter 14 - Casting Down the Accuser of the Brethren (Part 3)

### Guard Your Tongue!

Much of what the Father supplies to the body of Christ is furnished through our confession. This is not simply our positive, premeditated confession expressed in prayer; it consists of everything that comes out of our mouths. Did not Christ Himself say men shall be judged for “every idle (or careless) word” that they speak (Matthew 12:36 KJV)?

Our words are the overflow of our hearts. Indeed, God has so structured life that our very words, whether they are spoken in faith or unbelief, play a determinant role in shaping our future, James tells us that the tongue “sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell” (James 3:6). If hell can use the tongue for evil, God certainly can use it for good. Scripture tells us, “The one who desires life, to love and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit” (1 Peter 3:10).

If we desire life and the blessing of love and good days, we must keep our tongues from speaking evil. We must use our words to support, love and protect each other. If we do, we will experience much growth and greater protection. However, if we are finding fault, criticizing and talebearing, the voice of the accuser is manifested, and we are judged for our idle and evil words. God looks at what we have laid and gives us reality accordingly.

Consequently, we must come to understand that each of our thoughts, and even our most intimate conversations with others, are actually prayers we are offering to the Father who sees all things continually and in secret. These unaddressed prayers are just as much a part of our confession as our “Dear Lord” prayers, and they are just as influential. Our words about one another, as well as our words to one another, should carry with them the same sense of reverence as when we speak with God. For He is, indeed, listening.

### Other Tongues or Flaming Tongues?

It is significant that when Isaiah saw the Lord (Isaiah 6), not only was there no devil in heaven, but the guilt he felt was due to his words. He said, “Woe to me, for I am ruined! Because I am a



man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips” (v.5). The fact is our criticisms of one another are the voice of Satan accusing the saints before God.

Isaiah’s lips were cleansed as they were touched by a burning coal taken from the altar of God. The closer we truly draw to God, the more guilt we shall feel for our unclean words. When the Holy Spirit was manifested upon Jesus, He came symbolically in the form of a dove. But when the Spirit was revealed at Pentecost, He appeared as flaming tongues of fire. Certain segments of Christianity have made speaking in “other tongues” a sign of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. For us, the issue shall not be speaking in foreign tongues, but flaming tongues-tongues which have been purified by the fire of God from the altar, tongues that are cleansed of fault finding and criticisms.

To be continued...