

## Wildfire

*Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!*

*And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. –James 3:5-6*

“Southeast Arizona is burning.” read the headlines this week. The third largest wildfire in Arizona’s history is raging out of control. At the writing of this devotional, it is only 5% contained and two towns have been evacuated. The uncontrolled fire is destroying everything in its path and leaving a trail of hurt and pain.

It is believed that the fire was started by a careless person who did not totally extinguish his campfire.

Our tongues are small but powerful like the little campfire left to smolder. We say things carelessly and allow them to ignite resentment and ill feelings. We allow our words to cause hurt and pain for others. Selfish, unkind, and destructive words that cause others to suffer are sinful.

Remember that careless words can rage out of control, growing powerful, causing pain for many hearers. The passage in James says that the tongue is set on fire of hell. Our testimony can be minimized by the thoughtless things we say.