

Explosive Wildfire

Read James 3:1-10

Encouragement for the day – *“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.”*

James 3:5 NIV

The news reported the latest wildfire in southern California as “explosive.” The Blue Cut fire rapidly grew to about 40 square miles of intense flames and heat, creating its own weather pattern which has hampered firefighters. The public information officer (PIO) announced that the fire is 0 percent contained and is threatening over 34,000 homes. Evacuations have been ordered and Governor Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency. The incident commander told news reporters that “In my 40 years of firefighting, I’ve never seen behavior so extreme.”

James reminds us that our tongues are in a unique position within the body and it carries a great responsibility. As Christian firefighters we can use our tongues to greatly encourage others and esteem them higher than ourselves, or we can choose to use our tongues for purposes that do not honor God. In today’s fire service we hear so much foul language, negative talking and course joking that I am sure saddens God. All one simply has to do is search the social media hangouts that firefighters typically use to see what I am talking about, or hang out in almost any firehouse to hear how firefighters use their tongues. When we use our tongue for evil, the effects can explode like the wildfires in Southern California. Let’s begin a new trend where firefighters use their tongue to glorify God in the fire service and encourage others.

Lord help me today to watch what I say, knowing that others around me are listening.

Encouragement goes a long way when shared with a friend!!