



Wayne's Weekly Words

DO YOU FEAR EARTH QUAKE'S?

During the two years we spent in New Jersey, it was surprising how many people from that area are afraid to come out to California. They would prefer to live through the hurricanes which attack the east coast. I suppose California might be declared the earthquake capitol of the world.

I think that earthquakes are the most frightening of the various "natural disasters." People receive warnings hours or days before a hurricane. The warning for tornados is considerably shorter. But earthquakes give no warning. Besides, earthquakes are relative. You experience earthquakes every day - but they are so small you can not detect them.

I mentioned "natural disasters." Mother Nature is not responsible for these. There is no such person. It is Father God's will to cause or prevent an earthquake. Did God purposely hit Haiti with a tremendous earthquake? I can not answer that but I can say that God certainly could have prevented it! There is no doubt about that!

Earthquakes can be really scary, even when there is little damage. I can remember one when I was a teenager and I stood there on the shaking ground and watched the telephone poles shake back and forth. Gail and I experienced a rather bad earthquake when we were in a meeting at a family conference at Mount Herman Conference Grounds. The building swayed back and forth but there was no damage and the speaker did a great job of keeping everyone calm.

So much for earthquakes. There is something that is far more dangerous than earthquakes. James wrote about it.

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey

us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:1-8 (NKJV)

I spent two years on a Coast Guard Lightship (Foghorns, Beacon light, Radio beacon, and all). While James is correct in saying that a small rudder guides a large ship, he does not mention that, sometimes, it takes two or even three seamen to man the wheel to turn the rudder.

One time, the steering mechanism broke and we had to come to a dead stand-still until it was repaired. The rudder is extremely important.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

James 3:13-14 (NKJV)

I have known some people over the years who used their tongues for gossip and slander and to be troublemakers. Why they have this desire, I can not understand. I still know a few people in this category and wish that I could help correct their misconduct, but I don't believe God has called me to that ministry.

In short, make sure that you are not one whose tongue causes harm, especially to other Christians. Don't let your tongue be *unruly evil, full of deadly poison*.
