



**Speak, O  
Lord:  
The Power  
of Words  
James 3:1-12**



**1. The words of  
one person have  
the power to build  
up or cause great  
harm in the body of  
Christ. 3:1-6**



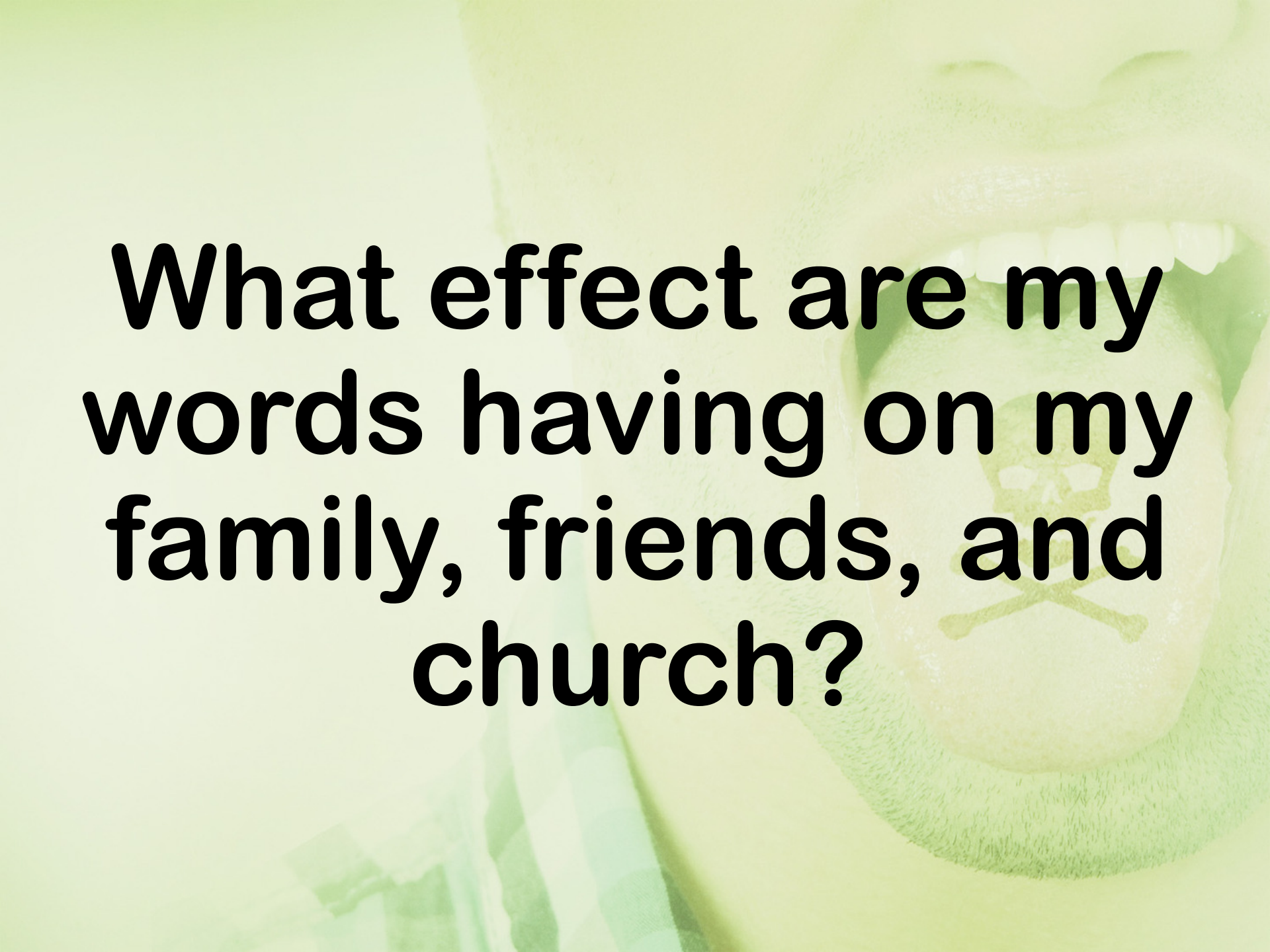
**Teachers have the  
responsibility of  
expounding biblical  
truth consistent with  
the Christian tradition  
and will be held  
accountable by God.  
3:1-2.**

**Something small, like  
a bit, a rudder, a  
spark, or the tongue,  
influences a much  
larger whole for  
either good or evil.**

**3:3-6**



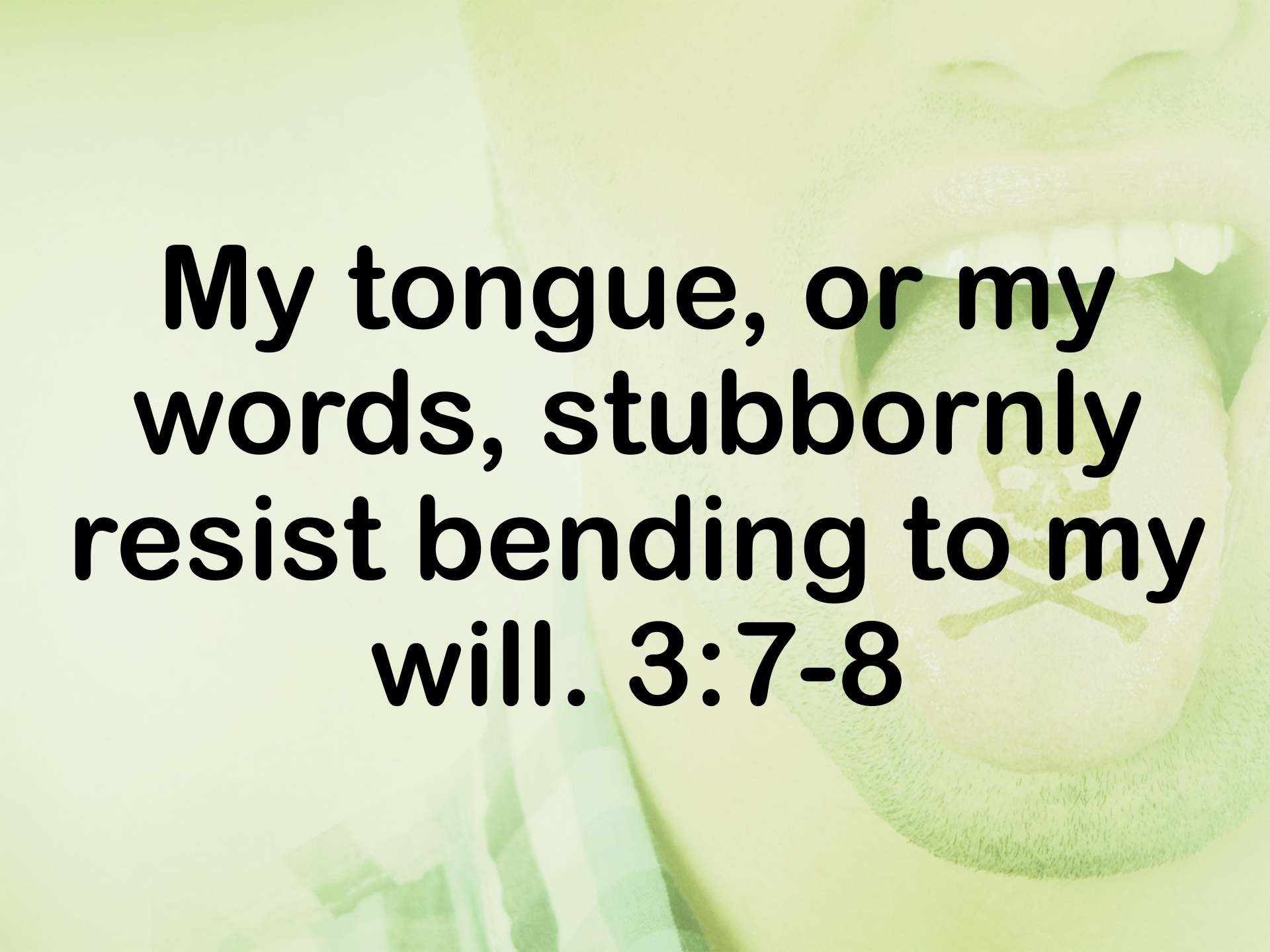


A close-up photograph of a person's mouth, showing their teeth and tongue. A tattoo of a skull and crossbones is visible on the tongue. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

**What effect are my  
words having on my  
family, friends, and  
church?**

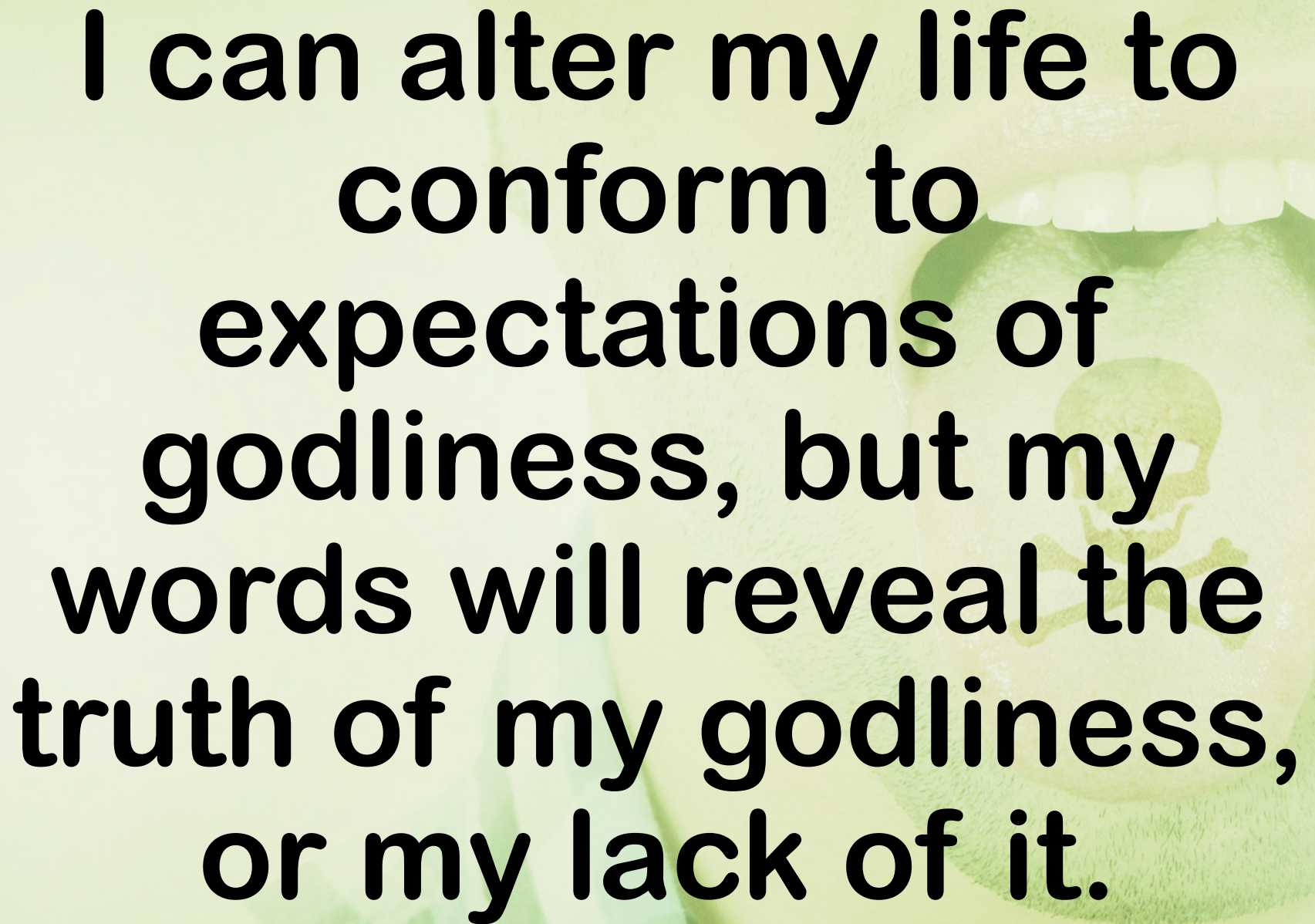


**2. The evil in my  
heart is revealed  
sooner or later in  
the things I say.  
3:7-12**

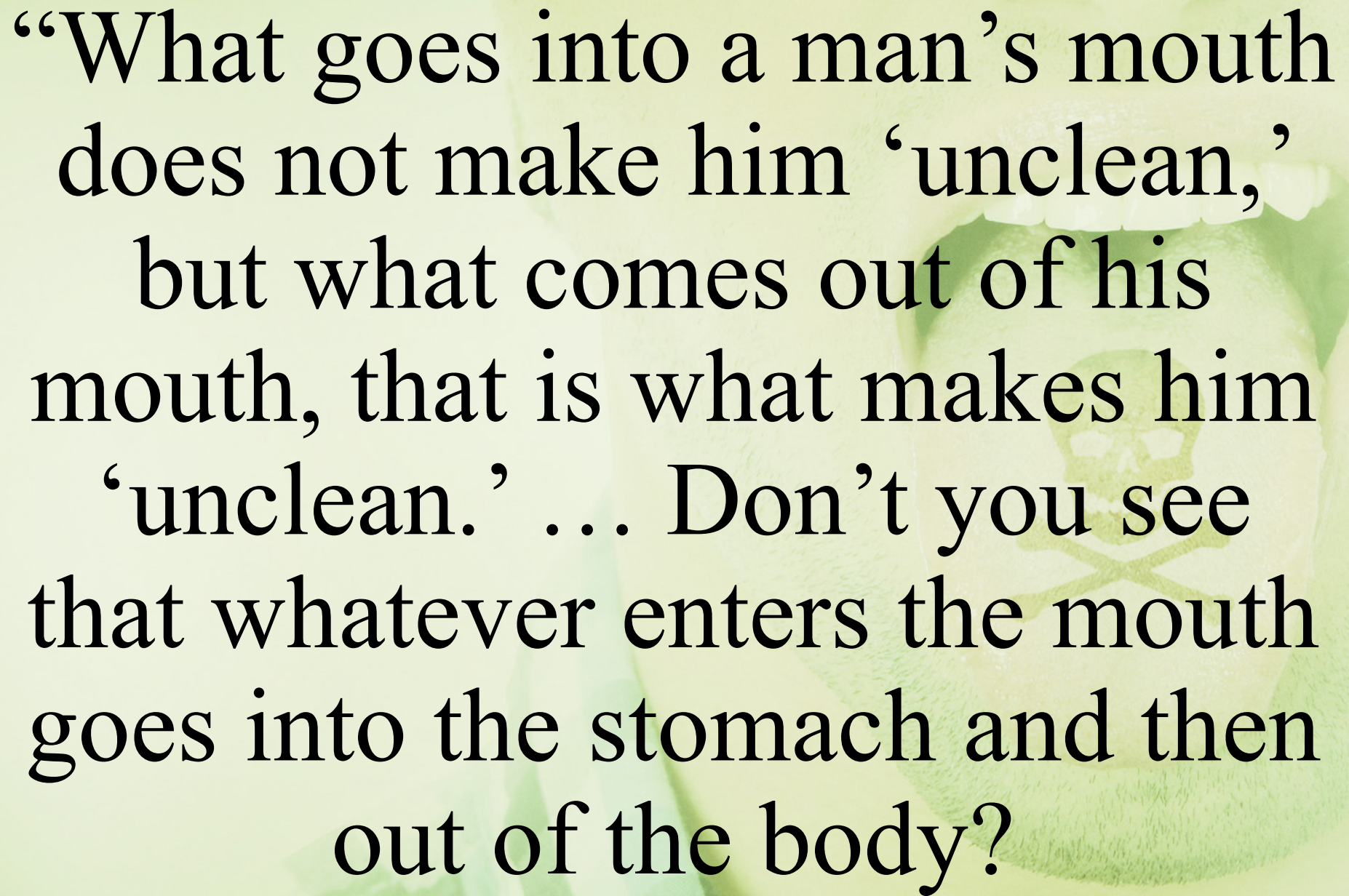
A close-up, green-tinted photograph of a person's mouth. The tongue is visible and has a skull and crossbones tattoo on it. The text is overlaid on the image.

**My tongue, or my  
words, stubbornly  
resist bending to my  
will. 3:7-8**



A close-up photograph of a person's mouth, showing their teeth and tongue. The image is heavily overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. A prominent watermark of a skull and crossbones is visible on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the mouth. The text is centered over the image in a large, bold, black font.

**I can alter my life to  
conform to  
expectations of  
godliness, but my  
words will reveal the  
truth of my godliness,  
or my lack of it.**

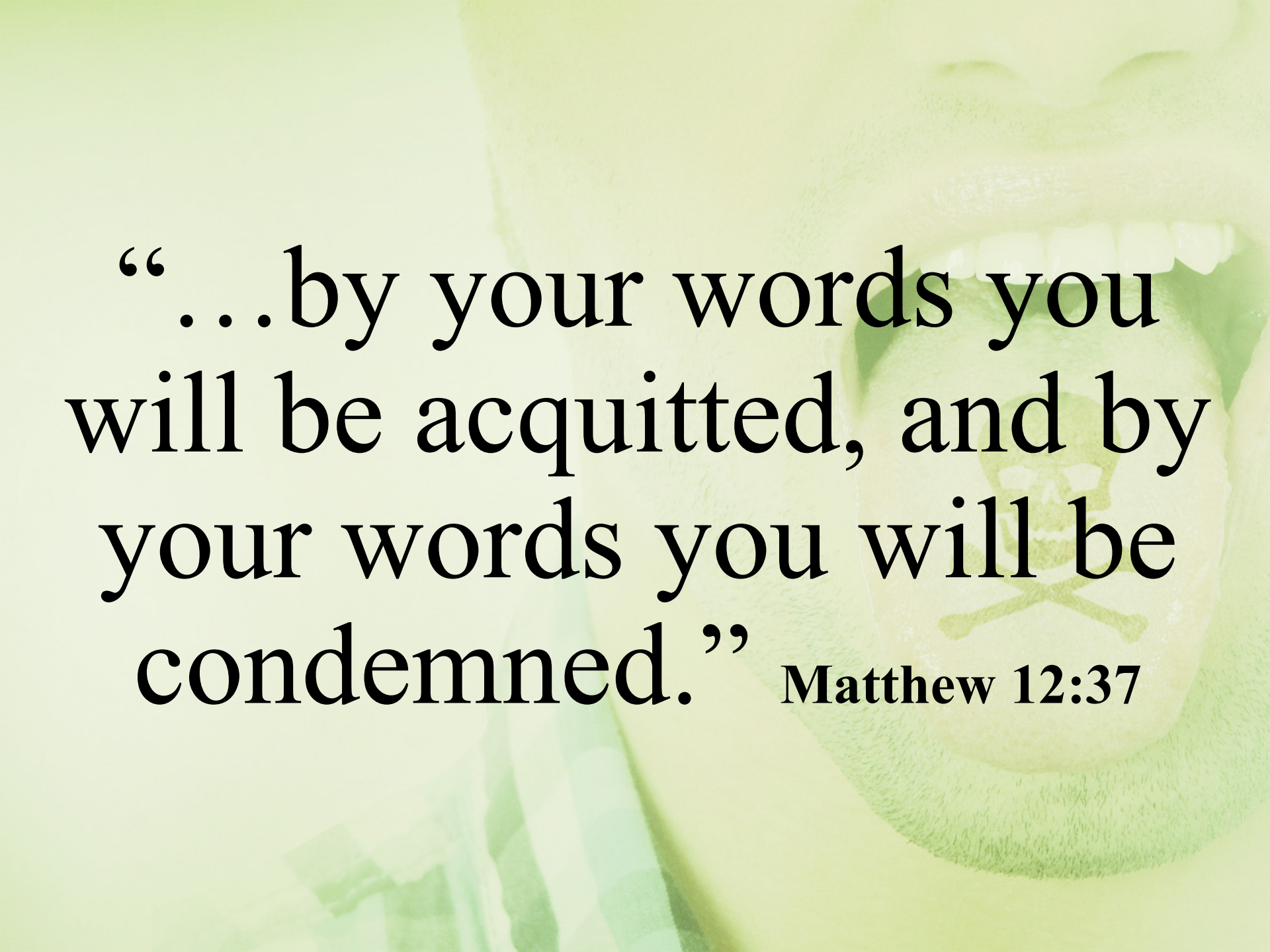


“What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean,’ but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean.’ ... Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?”



But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'” Matthew 15:11, 17-20





“...by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” **Matthew 12:37**

**If my words are going to reveal what is in my heart regardless of my best efforts to keep it hidden away, then my only hope is to allow Jesus to change my heart.**



“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit...For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”

**Matthew 12:33-34**



**What do my words  
reveal about the  
condition of my  
heart?**

