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# ***JAMES – Practical Christianity***

## ***The Heart of the Matter***

*Part 7*

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, October 18, 2015*

### ***James 3:1-12***

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” ***Proverbs 18:21, ESV***

“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” ***Proverbs 12:18, ESV***

I Am Either  
Destroying Others with My Words  
Strengthening Others with My Words

### **Warning to Teachers and Leaders in the Christian Community**

I Need to be Careful Who I Listen To

### **3 Illustrations**

Bits in Horses Mouths

“If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.” ***3:3, ESV***

Ship Guided by Rudders

“Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.”  
***3:4, ESV***

Forest Set Ablaze by a Spark

“How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!” ***3:5a, ESV***

## **4 Applications**

### **Small Critical Words Destroy Soft Hearts**

“So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things” *3:5b, ESV*

### **Destructive Words Become an Unquenchable Way of Life**

“And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness.” *3:6a, ESV*

### **Destructive Words Destroy My Reputation**

“The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body” *3:6b, ESV*

### **Destructive Words Are Passed Down to The Next Generation**

“Setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.” *3:6c, ESV*

## **God’s Solution**

### **I Take Responsibility for My Words**

“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,” *Matthew 12:36, ESV*

### **I Need to Watch My Words but Change My Heart**

Words Reveal the Progress of My Faith

“For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.” *3:2, ESV*

“The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” *Luke 6:45, ESV*

My Heart is Changed When I Immerse Myself  
in The Things of God

### **I Change My Identity**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” **2 Corinthians 5:17,**  
*ESV*

I Begin by Confessing My Sin  
to God and The People I Have Hurt