

TAMING THE TONGUE, PART 1

JAMES 1:26 EASY TO READ

26 You might think you are a very religious person. But **if your tongue is out of control**, you are fooling yourself. Your careless talk makes your offerings to God worthless.

I. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

JAMES 3:1-5 NIV

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.
2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect able to keep their whole body in check.
3 When we put **bits into the mouths of horses** to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.
4 Or **take ships as an example**. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are **steered by a very small rudder** wherever the pilot wants to go.
5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.

A. POWER TO DIRECT

PROV 18:21 THE MESSAGE

Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.

The tongue is the most dangerous of weapons.
Jewish Proverb

The tongue is a wild beast; once let it loose, it is difficult to chain.
Latin Proverb

B. POWER TO DESTROY

JAMES 3:5-6 NIV

Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 **The tongue also is a fire** a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself **set on fire by hell**.

EPH 4: 29 AMPLIFIED BIBLE

29 Do not let unwholesome [foul, profane, worthless, vulgar] words ever come out of your mouth, but only such **speech as is good for building up others**, according to the need **and** the occasion, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear [you speak].

PROV 12: 18 LB

18 Some people like to make cutting remarks, **but the words of the wise soothe and heal**.



II. THE PROBLEMS OF THE TONGUE

JAMES 3:7-11 NIV

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

- **Tongue is humanly UNTAMABLE**

JAMES 3:7-8 NIV

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

- **Tongue is INCONSISTENT**

JAMES 3 NIV

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.

- **Tongue is CONTRARY to NATURE**

JAMES 3 NIV

11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How powerful is the tongue according to James 3:1-6?
2. Why is it difficult to tame the tongue? Please read James 3:7-12.