

# James

## Me and my Big Mouth!

**James 3:2 (NIV)** “We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect (mature) man, able to keep his whole body in check.”

**Proverbs 18:21 (NIV)** “The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

### Saying too much.

**James 1:19<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak ...”

### Saying the wrong thing.

**James 1:26 (NIV)** “Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.”

### Saying too little.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)** “. . . encourage one another and build each other up . . .”

**Acts 15:32 (NIV)** “Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.”

## Look at the power of the tongue!

### 1. The tongue directs a life like a bit or a rudder.

**James 3:3 (NIV)** “When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.”

**James 3:4 (NIV)** “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.”

### 2. The tongue can destroy a life like a fire.

**James 3:5 (NIV)** “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 3:6 (NIV)** “The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”

### 3. The tongue is more difficult to tame than a wild animal.

**James 3:7-8<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, <sup>8</sup>but no man can tame the tongue.”

**James 3:8<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “[The tongue] is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”

### 4. The tongue shows my heart like a spring or a fig tree.

**James 3:9 (NIV)** “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.”

**James 3:10-12 (NIV)** “Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. <sup>11</sup>Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? <sup>12</sup>My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither

can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

## **How to Tame your Tongue:**

**Externally:** Pray for God to put a guard over your lips.

**Psalms 141:3 (NIV)** “Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.”

**Internally:** It all begins in the heart.

**Matthew 12:34-35 (NIV)** “. . . how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup>The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.”