



THE BOOK OF JAMES

INTO THE BIBLE

If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.

James 1:26 NLT

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 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.

James 3:3-4 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. 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.

James 3:5-6 NIV

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

James 3:9-10 NIV

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalms 19:14 NLT

SERMON TAKEAWAYS

Taming The Tongue

- My Words Will Determine My Direction (James 3:3-4; Proverbs 20:20)
- My Words Can Destroy What I Have (James 3:5-6; Proverbs 10:19)
- My Words Always Reveal My Heart (James 3:9-12)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Recall a time when you've hurt someone with your words. What was motivating you?
2. Share a personal example of how someone's words have shaped your life in a positive or negative way.
3. What do our words tell us about our hearts? Why is the tongue so difficult to control?
4. What are your current filters for what you watch and listen to? What changes do you need to make to assure you only allow healthy things into your heart?
5. What are some practical ways you can speak words of life over others this week?
6. Who in your life most needs to hear life-giving words?

PRAYER FOCUS

Your words hold the power of life and death. Begin each day in prayer by asking God to give you words of life that people need to hear.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER NIGHTS - August 11, 18, 25, 2021

Prayer is not a last resort. Prayer is the first choice. Join us at 7:00pm for a night of prayer and worship. Pray for your spouse, pray for children, pray for coworkers; wherever you need prayer let's do it together!

THRIVE MARRIAGE CONFERENCE - September 17-18, 2021

Join us for our Thrive Marriage Conference as we have a weekend filled with humor, fresh insight and new strategies for your relationship. Newlyweds, oldyweds, dating, engaged or "it's complicated" - no matter your relationship status, there will be something for you at Thrive! Reserve your spot online or the app!