

EMPOWERED

The Book of James

Empowered Words

James 3:1-12

6/30/2019

YOUR WORDS MATTER

- **Words impact** all layers of our being: mental, emotional and physical.
- Because negative words influence us more strongly than positive ones, our **minds** need **help** retaining positive truth.
- Words **shape** our perception of **reality**.
- Our words **help** or **harm** us and others.

TRUTH MATTERS

- The words we speak to ourselves **internally** come out in our life **externally**.
- Reinforcing **Biblical truth** in our own lives is key to living with a Godly perspective of reality.

EMPOWERED WORDS:

- Are **Spirit dependent**
- Put **God** first and prioritize God's **agenda** over our own
- Are **life** giving (*John 6:63,68; Proverbs 18:21*)
- Speak the **truth** in **love** (*Ephesians 4:15*)
- **Build up** vs tear down (*Ephesians 4:29*)
- **Restore** relationships (*Matthew 5:24; 18:15-17*)
- **Guard against** gossip and being divisive (*Proverbs 16:28*)
- Are **slow** to speak (*James 1:19-20; Proverbs 17:27-28; 21:23*)

FROM THE OVERFLOW OF THE HEART (LUKE 6:45):

- Prioritizing our **time** and **energy** to live dependently on God and pursue spiritual health.
- Investing our minds and hearts in **Biblical truth**
- Reinforcing our life with **God's word** through our choices, actions and speech

JAMES 3:1-12 (NIV)

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ²We 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.

³When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or 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. ⁵Likewise, 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. ⁶The 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.

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

⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.