

Faith Resolutions

Week 6: I Will Speak with Self-Control

Series:

- Week 1: I Will Endure Trials (James 1:1-12)
- Week 2: I Will Trust God During Temptation (James 1:13-18)
- Week 3: I Will Hear and Obey God's Word (James 1:19-27)
- Week 4: I Will Not Favor One Person Over Another (James 2:1-13)
- Week 5: I Will Demonstrate Faith by Belief and Works (James 2:14-26)
- Week 6: I Will Speak with Self-Control (James 3:1-12)
- Week 7: I Will Live in God's Wisdom (James 3:13-18)
- Week 8: I Will Draw Near to God (James 4:1-10)
- Week 9: I Will Not Be Arrogant (James 4:11-17)
- Week 10: I Will Not Oppress (James 5:1-6)
- Week 11: I Will Be Patient (James 5:7-12)
- Week 12: I Will Pray in Faith (James 5:13-18)
- Week 13: I Will Help Restore Those Who are Wandering (James 5:19-20)

Scripture:

James 3:1-12

Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

What is a resolution? It's a decision and determination *to do* or *not do* something.

Scripture is full of resolutions.

James wrote about resolutions that every Christian should have as a part of their life.

Three Steps to a Resolution -

- **A Decision to Change** (this is not enough by itself)
- **A Plan to Progress** (where the real work happens)
- **A Commitment to Endure** (Some quit at the first sign of failure)

Most never move past the first step because they don't prepare for the next two steps.

We'll be talking about the *13 Faith Resolutions in the book of James*.

Sixth Faith Resolution – I Will Speak with Self-Control.

Information (What You Need to Know):

It's difficult for all of us to control the words that come out of our mouths.

James 3:2 (NLT) Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

A person's words cannot be separated from their character.

- Hurtful words are spoken by bitter and angry people
- Lies are spoken by dishonest people
- Perverted words are spoken by immoral people
...on the other hand -
- Encouraging words are spoken by loving and caring people
- Truth is spoken by honest people
- Appropriate words are spoken by moral people

Three Steps to a Resolution:

Decision to Change – *I must use my words wisely*

- **Words can be powerful** (they control atmosphere and direction)
James 3:3 (NLT) We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. **4** And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong.
 - ✓ A small bit in a horse's mouth controls the entire body
 - ✓ A small rudder on a ship can change the direction of a larger object
- **Words can be destructive** (they can easily tear down)
James 3:5 (NLT) ...the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. **6** And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.
- **Words can be hypocritical** (they are used for good and then evil)
James 3:9 (NLT) Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. **10** And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

Plan to Progress

Three Steps to Appropriate Speech...

- **I cannot humanly control my words** (surrender control to the Holy Spirit)
Galatians 5:22 (NLT) But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: ...self-control.
- **I need to guard my heart** (speech, sight, safety, side-tracked)
Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. **24** Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. **25** Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. **26** Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. **27** Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.
- **I will use my words to help, not hurt**
Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

A Commitment to Endure –

Each day or moment must be committed to please the Lord with the words we speak.

Psalms 19:14 (NLT) May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

“Watch your thoughts, they become words.
Watch your words, they become actions.
Watch your actions, they become habits.
Watch your habits, they become character.
Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.”
– Frank Outlaw