

James 3:1-12

Master Your Mouth

I: Introduction: James warns that our speech reveals what is inside our heart and tests if our faith is genuine. How we conduct our speech is evidence of what is inside our heart.

II: How our Speech Effects our Lives (**Jm. 3:1-12**)

A. The Mouth Stumbles (**vv. 1-2**)

B. The Mouth Steers (**vv. 3-5a**)

C. The Mouth Revolts (**vv. 5b-8**)

D. The Mouth Reveals (**vv. 9-12**)

VI: Conclusion: Genuine believers cultivate a mastery over their mouth that comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Study Questions: Master Your Mouth

1. Why are teachers in danger of stricter judgement? (**Matt. 18:5-6**) What influence do teachers have on the growth of those they teach? (**Pr. 18:21**)
2. Why does someone who does not stumble have perfect speech? (**Rom. 12:1-2, 2Tim. 2:15, Titus 2:6-8**)
3. Why does James compare the tongue to a bit in a horse's mouth or a rudder on a ship? (**Ps. 32:8-9, Pr. 5:21-23**) What influences your speech? (**Matt. 6:21, 12:33-37**)
4. How can we use our speech to lead our lives in a good direction? (**Jm. 1:25-27, Ps. 19:13-14**) How can we positively direct others with our speech? (**Eph. 4:25-32**)
5. How is the tongue a fire? (**Pr. 16:27, Ecc. 10:12-14**) How can misplaced words turn into a forest fire? (**Pr. 6:1-6, 12:18**) What kind of damage can our speech cause? (**Pr. 6:16-19, Ecc. 5:1-7**)
6. Why is the tongue so difficult to tame? (**Jer. 17:9-10**) How does God's word purify our speech? (**Ps. 119:9-11, Col. 3:16-17, 1Jhn. 3:10-23**)
7. How can we bless others with our speech? (**Jn. 13:12-17, 1Thes. 5:16-18**) How can we curse others with our speech? (**Jm. 4:11, 5:9**)
8. What does your speech reveal about your heart? (**Lk. 6:45**) What kind of speech proceeds from your mouth most often? (**Lk. 6:43-44**)
9. Does this speech line up with who God calls you to be? (**Jm. 2:12-13, Eph. 5:1-5**) What needs to happen to make that change happen? (**Ps. 34:8-14, 141:1-4, 2Tim. 2:20-26**)

Prayer

1. Ask God to forgive you for having speech that is not honoring or pleasing to Him.
2. Pray that God would help your heart to grow in love and to master your mouth.