

(3:1-2) Do not become teachers in large numbers, my brothers, since you know that we who are teachers will incur a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a **perfect** man, able to rein in the whole body as well.

--- Maturing in Christ ---

(Matthew 12:34) For the mouth speaks from that which fills the heart.

1. **Pride in our _____ is heard in our words.**

(3:3-5a) Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their whole body as well. Look at the ships too: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are nevertheless directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot determines. So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.

2. **Prideful words are not only dangerous, they are also _____.**

(3:5b-6) See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the very world of unrighteousness; the tongue is set among our body's parts as that which defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

3. **We cannot suppress sinful pride through _____.**

(3:7-8) For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. But no one among mankind can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

4. **Our words should reflect our _____.**

(3:9-12) With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way. Does a spring send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, bear olives, or a vine bear figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

5. **Prideful words spoken are the _____ of an unhealthy root.**

(4:1-3) What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is the source not your pleasures that wage war in your body's parts? You lust and do not have, so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, so that you may spend what you request on your pleasures.

(4:4) You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

(4:5) Or do you think that the Scripture says to no purpose, "He jealously desires the Spirit whom He has made to dwell in us"?

(4:6) But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

✓ **A controlled tongue begins with a _____ heart.**

(4:7a) Submit therefore to God.

✓ **I will fight the real _____.**

(4:7b) But resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

✓ **I will let God _____.**

(4:8a) Come close to God and He will come close to you.

✓ **When I mess up, I will _____.**

(4:8b-9) Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable, and mourn, and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy into gloom.

✓ **I will remember, perfection isn't the goal, growing in _____ is.**

(4:10) Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.