

James 3:1-12

JAMES

FAITH / WORKS

“The Taming of the Tongue”

**James has pointed out that a
mature believer has:**

- 1. Patience in trials/trouble – Chapter 1**
- 2. Practices the truth – Chapter 2**
- 3. Power over their tongue (Speech)-Chap. 3**

I. The Power of the Tongue (vs 1-6)

A. The Power to Direct (vs 1-4)

B. The Power to Destroy (vs 5-6)

I. The Power of the Tongue (vs 1-6)

A. The Power to Direct (vs 1-4)

1. A Warning about Teaching (vs 1a)

2. The Reason's for the Warning (vs 1-2)

a. A stricter judgement (vs 1b)

b. We all stumble (vs 2)

2 ILLUSTRATIONS VS 3-4

1. Horses

2. Ships

**A careless word may kindle strife
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill
A brutal word may smite and kill
A gracious word may smooth the way
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress
A loving word may heal and bless.**

PROVERBS 18:21

**“Death and life are in the power
of the tongue.”**

THE GOOD USE OF OUR TONGUE

- 1. To praise God! Sing to the Lord**
- 2. To pray!**
- 3. To proclaim the gospel!**
- 4. To comfort and encourage!**

I. The Power of the Tongue (vs 1-6)

A. The Power to Direct (vs 1-4)

B. The Power to Destroy (vs 5-6)

1. The bad use of our tongue:

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a. To Lie

b. To Slander

c. To Curse

EPHESIANS 4:29

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

1. The bad use of our tongue:

a. To Lie

b. To Slander

c. To Curse

d. To Back Bite

e. To Flatter

f. To Criticize

**Only a word of anger,
But it wounded on sensitive heart;
Only a word of sharp reproach,
But it made the teardrops start;
Only a hasty, thoughtless word,
Sarcastic and unkind,
But it darkened the day before so bright,
And left a sting behind.**

1. The bad use of our tongue:

- a. To Lie
- b. To Slander
- c. To Curse
- d. To Back Bite
- e. To Flatter
- f. To Criticize
- g. To Gossip

PROVERBS 12:18

“There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.”

RHETORIC:

a : the art of speaking or writing effectively

**b : the study of writing or speaking as a means
of communication or persuasion**

2a : skill in the effective use of speech

II. The Problems of the Tongue (vs 7-12)

A. It's Untamable by Man (vs 7-8)

B. It's Inconsistent (vs 9-10)

C. It's Contrary to Nature (vs 11-12)

A. It's Untamable by Man (vs 7-8)

Romans 3:13-14 -13 "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."

Psalm 140:3 - "They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; The poison of asps is under their lips."

B. It's Inconsistent (vs 9-10)

Being at church then driving home!

C. It's Contrary to Nature (vs 11-12)

**2 Rhetorical Questions with NO as
the answer!**

LUKE 6:45

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

How Can We Tame The Tongue?

- 1. Be Born Again (New Heart)**
- 2. Be Filled With The Spirit (Eph 5:17-19)**
- 3. Be Cautious (or Careful)**
- 4. Be Prayerful**

PSALM 19:14

**“Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart,
Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my
strength and my Redeemer.”**

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