

**JAMES**  
"Words"  
November 1, 2015

*"If we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 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. People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring."*  
James 3:2-12 (NLT)

1. Our Words have incredible power to influence. (vs. 3-4)

*"We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth."*

James 3:3 (NLT)

*"And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong."*

James 3:4 (NLT)

2. Our Words have terrible power to destroy. (vs. 5-8)

*"A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire."*

James 3:5 (NLT)

*(The tongue) "...can set your whole life on fire."*

James 3:6 (NLT)

*"People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison."*  
(NLT)

James 3:7-8

3. Our Words diagnose the condition of our heart. (vs. 9-12)

*"Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. " And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!" Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs?"*

James 3:9-12 (NLT)

Jesus: *"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks."*

Matthew 12:34 (NIV)

There is an undeniable connection between the condition of your heart and the content of your words.

### Take a Spiritual EKG

WORDS	HEART
Critical	Bitter
Negative	Discouraged
Boasting	Insecure
Filthy	Impure
Encouraging	Happy
Gentle	Loving
Positive	Peaceful

*"I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart."* Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT)