

**James: Doing > Hearing**  
*Dangerous as Hell*  
 James 3:1-12

\_\_\_\_\_ are central to who God is and what God does.

Through the power of God's \_\_\_\_\_ the entire universe was brought into existence and the work of redemption (the new creation) is being accomplished!

**Psalm 33:6, 9** *By the word of Yahweh were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth...For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

**James 1:18, 21** *He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created...Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

We \_\_\_\_\_ with our words.

**Proverbs 18:21** says, "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

We \_\_\_\_\_ who we are with our words.

**Matthew 12:34-35** *Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.*

**vv. 36-37** *I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned. – Jesus*

**Reality Check #1:** Those who teach will be \_\_\_\_\_ by God. **(3:1)**

**Reality Check #2:** We all \_\_\_\_\_ in many ways. **(3:2a)**

**Proverbs 10:19** *When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*

**Tongue control is the \_\_\_\_\_ matter; it influences the entirety of our lives.**

**1. If we can control what we \_\_\_\_\_, we can control the rest of what we \_\_\_\_\_. (James 3:2b-4)**

We \_\_\_\_\_ our words, and then our words \_\_\_\_\_ us.

**Ephesians 4:29** *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

**Proverbs 10:11, 21** *The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life...The lips of the righteous nourish many.*

**Proverbs 12:18** *The tongue of the wise brings healing.*

**Proverbs 12:25** *An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.*

**Proverbs 15:1** *A gentle answer turns away wrath.*

**Proverbs 15:4** *The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life.*

**Proverbs 16:24** *Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*

**Isaiah 50:4** *Lord Yahweh has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary.*

2. If we do not control what we say, we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and others. (James 3:5-8)

If someone comes to you to share negative information about someone:

First, determine if it is \_\_\_\_\_ for you to hear it.

Second, **IF** it is appropriate for you to hear it, the person must \_\_\_\_\_ to go back to the one they are reporting on to confront them privately—unless their personal safety is in question. (Matthew 18:15)

**Ground Rules:**

- Require that sources be identified by name.
- Insist that they support evidence with facts and not hearsay.

**Proverbs 26:20-21** *Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.*

- Ask the person, "May I quote you?"
- If anywhere along the way, you realize that what is being said is inappropriate, immediately break in and say, "I don't think we should be talking about this."

**Proverbs 17:9** *He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.*

**Proverbs 20:19** *A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.*

**Proverbs 18:8** *The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts.*

**Psalms 141:3, 4** *Set a guard over my mouth, O Yahweh; keep watch over the door of my lips. Let not my heart be drawn to what is evil, to take part in wicked deeds with men who are evildoers; let me not eat of their delicacies.*

3. What we say reveals the true condition of our \_\_\_\_\_. (James 3:9-12)

**Matthew 15:10, 17** *Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean'...Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander. – Jesus*

To treat people with contempt is to treat \_\_\_\_\_ with contempt.

**James 3:17** *The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*

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Through the power of God's **word** the entire universe was brought into existence and the work of redemption (the new creation) is being accomplished!

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We **create** with our words.

**Proverbs 18:21** says, "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

We **reveal** who we are with our words.

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**Reality Check #1:** Those who teach will be **judged more strictly** by God. (3:1)

**Reality Check #2:** We all **stumble** in many ways. (3:2a)

**Proverbs 10:19** *When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*

**Tongue control is the decisive matter; it influences the entirety of our lives.**

**1. If we can control what we say, we can control the rest of what we do. (James 3:2b-4)**

We **shape** our words, and then our words **shape** us.

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