

James: Faith at Work

"Tongue Taming & Teaching" (Pt. 2)

James 3:3-12

Sunday, August 23rd, 2026

~ A Method to James' Madness

Ch. 1 - writing to the persecuted church regarding their faith in times of trials and difficulty.

Ch. 2 - those who possess genuine faith in Christ will practice the truth.

Ch. 3 - Be careful who teaches & tame your tongues!

**BUT*, there is a common thread in all of this = spiritual _____

~ **Words Carry Weight** ~

As you learn to consider the weight and power of words, perhaps the most important thing anyone could ever think about is the fact that *God has spoken*.

"Wonder upon wonder, God has spoken. Our Father, in all his majesty, has stooped to speak to us in human words. The God who made everything, including you, has spoken – and that changes everything."
- David Mathis

> *The Bible's Words on Words ...*

+ Hebrews 1:1-2

+ Genesis 1:3,6 & 9

+ John 1:1

> 3 Takeaways from the Scriptures

a) God has spoken.

b) God speaking is a display of his power and authority

c) God not only speaks, but is Himself the Word.

1. The Innate & Essential Power of the Tongue: It's Ability to _____ (v. 3-5)

~ James gives us two specific examples of how the tongue really controls the body - a) a horse, b) a ship.

~ Last week.... #4 "The teacher's main tool is one that is hard to control." Why is it so important for the teacher to humbly consider the role of teacher? The answer is **Colossians 1:28-29**

~ Why does this matter to the one who calls themselves a Christian? James gives us a clear answer here in ch. 3 as well as James 1:4

Perfect & Complete = Maturity

2. The Deadly Power of the Tongue: It's Ability to _____ (v.5b-8)

~ James explains the evil power of the tongue; he likens the power of the tongue to a "fire that destroys a forest." (v.5b-6)

> All it takes... one spark, or one _____.

~ Do you find it interesting that the tongue is the one muscle of the body that you never have to intentionally work on? It is always being exercised. *i.e.* - don't let your words affects the hearts & minds of others negatively!

3. The Expressive Power of the Tongue: It's Ability to _____ (v. 9-12)

~ Wisdom from a fellow pastor, Grant Osborne (1942-2018)

"As one who has been a pastor and teacher my entire adult life, I recognize how badly we need to develop in this area, and at the age of seventy-five I am still striving to grow in this. Letting my big mouth roam free has caused me innumerable difficulties throughout my life."

> **Keep the Whole Body in Check:** this is *physical & spiritual*

> Luke 6:45 & Matthew 12 - "**out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**"

(What we say comes from what we think which ultimately determines how we act.)

~ So... what's the remedy for the problem? The answer is always Jesus.