

SESSION 23 TO GIRD THE RUDDER

“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.” ([James 3:1-5](#))

I. BRIDLE YOUR TONGUE

- A. Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks
- B. Control the tongue, understand what is happening in the heart, go after the weeds
- C. The tongue is a fire ([v. 6](#))
- D. We bless and curse with the same tongue ([v. 9](#))
- E. Wisdom from below feels familiar; wisdom from above put God in the likeness of man
- F. To walk in wisdom requires integrity of words
- G. In order to walk worthy, you must bridle your tongue
 - 1. [Ephesians 4:1](#)
 - 2. [Colossians 1:10](#)
 - 3. [1 Thessalonians 2:12](#)
 - 4. [Ephesians 6:19](#)
 - 5. [Matthew 5](#)
 - 6. [Psalm 12:6](#)
 - 7. [Psalm 45](#)
- H. His words are sufficient ([Revelation, Galatians 1](#))
- I. We can be conduits of life-giving words
- J. When the Lord convicts, it is encouraging
- K. Analyze for yourself how you use your words, in your life and online
 - 1. Does your speech remind people of who Jesus is?
- L. Death and life are in the power of the tongue ([Proverbs 18:21](#))
- M. Take it upon yourself to break habits of slander

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II. SIX TOXINS THAT KILL YOUR FRUIT AND JOY

- A. Envy
- B. Entitlement
- C. Ego
- D. Elitism
- E. Entertainment
- F. Expectations

III. THE SECRET WEAPON

- A. Speech is the secret weapon to safeguard you from the ditches of immaturity
- B. Even small movements in the right direction will redirect the course of your life