



***Taming the Power of the Tongue***  
***Dr. Clem Ferris***

## **Key Verses**

### **James 3:1-2 ESV**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 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.

### **James 1:26**

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

## **1. Taming the Tongue**

- James 3:7-8

**“The only thing that can \_\_\_\_\_ the tongue  
is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word of God.”**

## **2. The Disproportionate Power of the Tongue**

- James 3:3-5

**“The Tongue Has No Ears, Only the \_\_\_\_\_ Does.”**

**“A Transformed Heart Can Produce A Transformed \_\_\_\_\_.”**

## **3. Deadly Inconsistency**

- James 3:9-12
- Isaiah 50:5
- Isaiah 53:7

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**ADMIT**

**BELIEVE**

**CHOOSE**

### **Reflection and Discussion**

1. **James 3:1–2** Why does James warn that not many should become teachers, and how does this relate to how we use our words? What connection do you see between spiritual maturity and controlling the tongue?
  2. **James 1:26** According to James, how does the inability to bridle the tongue affect our witness and worship? In what ways can our speech either confirm or contradict our faith?
  3. **James 3:3–5** How do the illustrations of the bit, rudder, and fire illustrations help us understand the influence of our words? Can you think of a time when a small word had a big impact?
  4. **James 3:7–8** Why is the tongue described as “a restless evil, full of deadly poison”? What makes controlling our speech so difficult, and how can we grow in this area?
  5. **James 3:9–12** James points out the contradiction of blessing God and cursing people with the same mouth. What does this reveal about the condition of the heart, and how can we strive for consistency in our speech?
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Next Week

**TOUGH QUESTIONS, HONEST ANSWERS**

**ROLAND BEARD**

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