

James: Faith/Works Pt. 5

August 8, 2021

REAL FAITH HELPS ME TAME MY TONGUE

James 3:1-15

"If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are only fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless!" James 1:26 (NLT)

Why do I need God's help FILTERING what I say?

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For **if we could control our tongues**, we would be **PERFECT** and could also control ourselves in every other way. James 3:1-2 (NLT)

1. My words DIRECT where I am going.

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. James 3:3-4 (NLT)

2. My words DESTROY what I have.

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. ⁶ 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. James 3:5-6 (NLT)

• Proverbs 21:23 • Proverbs 4:23 • Luke 6:45 • Proverbs 4:23

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**. James 3:7-8 (NLT)

3. My words DISPLAY who I really am.

We use our tongues to praise our Lord and Father, but then we curse people who were created in God's likeness. These praises and curses come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, **THIS SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN**. James 3:9-10 (ERV)

What's down in the well, always comes up in the bucket.

4. My words DISCLOSE the progress of my faith.

A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you? James 3:11-12 (MES)

5. My deeper problem isn't my tongue, it's my HEART.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. James 3:13-15 (NLT)

Three Ways to TAME My Tongue and FILTER My Words:

1. Pause

Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.
Proverbs 17:28 (ESV)

2. Ponder

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.
Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT)

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Are my words:

True?
Helpful?
Inspiring?
Necessary?
Kind?

3. Pray

- Ask Holy Spirit to CHANGE my HEART.

“Rid yourself of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit!”
Ezekiel 18:31

“For out of the overflow of your heart your mouth speaks.” Matt. 12:34

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.
Psalm 19:14 (NKJV)

- Ask Holy Spirit for HELP.

“Lord, help me control my tongue; and help me be careful about what I say.” Psalm 141:3 (NCV)

“Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.” James 1:19