



BURN  
DOWN  
OR BUILD UP

**James 3:1-18**

- Your Speech is the Primary Evidence of Which Kingdom You Belong to.

James 3:1 (NIV)

“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

- Our Words have an Eternal Shelf-Life.

Matthew 12:36 (NKJ)

"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment."

- We are Voting on the kind of person we are becoming Every Time we Open Our Mouths.

# 6 Particle Principles

# 1. The Power Principle: (v.3)



- Our Tongue is The Bit that Controls the Immense Horsepower of Our Life.

## 2. The Direction Principle: (v.4)



- You cannot Steer Toward a Kingdom Destination while Your Mouth is Constantly Steering You Toward Conflict.

### 3. The Destruction Principle: (vv.5,6)



- The Tongue is a small instrument that Dictates the Trajectory of Your Soul

## 4. The Heart Principle: (vv. 9–12)

- We need the Holy Spirit to Rewire Our Heart,  
so that we Naturally Want to Build Up...  
Not Burn Down.

## 5. The Humility Principle: Evidence of a Pure Heart (James 4:16)

James 4:16 (NKJV)

"But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."

James 4:6 (NKJV)

"God resists the proud But gives grace to the humble."

- Humble Speech isn't about being weak. It's about having a Tongue that has been Surrendered to God.

**James Warning: The Grumbling Trap: (James 5:9)**

## James 5:9

"Do not grumble against one another, brethren,  
lest you be condemned."

- Grumbling is Negative Speech wearing the Mask of Honesty.

- If my Faith is Real, It Must Affect my Words.

# James 3:7-8

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"For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But No Man Can Tame the Tongue. It is an Unruly Evil, full of Deadly Poison."



- I need God's help to Control my Words

## Matthew 12:34

“How can you, being evil, speak good things?  
For out of the abundance of the heart the  
mouth speaks.”

- When God Changes Your Heart,  
Your Mouth Follows.

## 6. The Wisdom Principle: (vv. 13–18)

## James 3:17

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

- James is calling us to move from being "Hearers" of the Word to "Doers."