



*Closing the Gap Between Belief and Behavior!*  
*August 17, 2025 – The Book of James*  
***Closing the Gap by Taming Your Tongue!***

James 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

<sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

<sup>7</sup>For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,

<sup>8</sup>but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

<sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

<sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

<sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Six reasons to bridle tongue:

1. It controls you.

*James 3:3-5a*

2. It sets fires and destruction.

*James 3:5b-6*

3. It can't be tamed with self-effort!

*James 3:7*

4. It is a restless evil.

*James 3:8a*

5. It is deadly poison.

*James 3:8b*

*--- Applying this to your life ---*

Beware of gaps in your Christian walk:  
A unbridled tongue is destructive and incomparable  
with being a follower of Christ!

*James 3:1-12*

**1. Don't set fires!**

*Psalm 73:8-9,15; Luke 6:45; Colossians 3:8; Jude 16*

**2. Keep watch daily over your tongue!**

*Psalm 19:14; 141:3; Colossians 3:8; Ephesians 4:29*

**3. Always Praise the Lord and bless people!**

*Psalm 35:28; Hebrews 13:15; Ephesians 4:29*

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 141:3

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

Hebrews 13:15

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

*Application questions on the back →*

--- Close the Gap between your faith and your works! ---

August 17, 2025

### **SUNDAY after church...**

Think through your morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give! 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received! 3) List songs or lyrics that touched your heart.

### **MONDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTED** Read through Sunday's verses again. Write out times when you have been deeply hurt by words. Don't dwell on this but use it to motivate you to not hurt others by your words. Why do words often hurt more than a physical hurt? **PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

### **TUESDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** Write out why does James say the tongue cannot be tamed? What does this teach us from the section? **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

### **WEDNESDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** A simple yet powerful application is to watch over your tongue. We gave some verses on this, so read them and write out what you need to do to bridle your tongue. **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

### **THURSDAY and FRIDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** James tells us to use our tongue to bless God. Other verses (listed on front) tell us to use our tongue also to bless and build up others. Write out how you apply this to your life this week. **PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

### **SATURDAY**

**Prepare** your heart for Sunday's gathering by being ready to fully engage in the worship.