# THE BOOK OF JAMES James 3:1-12 Rooted Spirit Led



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Practical Reminder: Character Matters Testimony Matters Words Matters



#### James 3:1-12

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. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 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. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.



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#### James 3:1–12

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 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. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.



# **Snapshot**

# **Keeping The Context**

- Expect various trials
- Grow in faith
- · Pray for wisdom in faith
- Let God exhalate you
- Stay steadfast follow God not your heart
- · Know source... temptation or trial
- Actions reveal the heart... remember true religion
- Seek godly wisdom not worldly wisdom
- Works that demonstrates faith



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### THE GUIDING WORD

#### Power Of Potential

- Eager learners
  - Seeking unbeliever for the truth of the gospel
  - · Seeking believer desiring growth from the Word
- Ego teachers
  - Relying on own understanding
  - · Seeking gratification and following
- Earnest teachers
  - Desire for purity in teaching the Word
  - Driven by the Holy Spirit not selfish gains



# Power Of Potential Dangers Of Unrooted Teaching

- Greater strictness in judging
- Misleading doctrine leads to heresy
- Heresy leads to false-salvation

#### 1 Timothy 1:3-7

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.



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### THE GUIDING WORD

# Power Of Potential Dangers Of Unrooted Teaching

- · Greater strictness in judging
- Misleading doctrine leads to heresy
- · Heresy leads to false-salvation

#### Galatians 1:6-9

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.



# Power Of Potential Dangers Of Unrooted Teaching

- Greater strictness in judging
- Misleading doctrine leads to heresy
- Heresy leads to false-salvation

#### 2 Timothy 2:16-19

But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."



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### THE GUIDING WORD

Power Of Potential
Dangers Of Unrooted Teaching
Remember The Gifting

· Teaching is a spiritual gift

Ephesians 4:11

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,



Power Of Potential
Dangers Of Unrooted Teaching
Remember The Gifting

- Teaching is a spiritual gift
- Anchoring is key to growth

#### Ephesians 4:12-16

to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.



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### THE GUIDING WORD

Power Of Potential Dangers Of Unrooted Teaching Remember The Gifting

- Teaching is a spiritual gift
- Anchoring is key to growth
- Lead by the Holy Spirit not personal agendas

#### Galatians 1:10

For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.



Power Of Potential
Dangers Of Unrooted Teaching
Remember the gifting
Living Out The Teaching

- Character of the teachers matters
- Character reflects the heart that is shaped by the Word
- Striving for holiness
  - "We" all stumble...
  - No one is without sin



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# What Is Your Aim? Worldliness Or Godliness

#### 1 John 1:8-10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.



#### THE GUARDED WORD

## Practical Illustrations Of Small But Influential

- The bit and the horse
  - A horse on its own
    - No purpose
  - A horse under control
    - Trained purpose and usefulness
- The rudder and the ship
  - No rudder no direction
    - Driven by the winds and waves
  - Rudder direction with a purpose
- The boosting tongue
  - · Reveals the heart



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#### Matthew 15:17-20

"Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."



## THE GUARDED WORD

Practical Illustrations Of Small But Influential Danger Of The Unbridled Tongue

- Consider a fire
  - Potential for diester or purpose
    - Diester
      - Uncontrolled fuel
      - Unplanned prevention
      - Unintended destruction



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### THE GUARDED WORD

Practical Illustrations Of Small But Influential Danger Of The Unbridled Tongue

- Consider a fire
- Our tongue (words)
  - Staining the entire body
    - Our heart is revealed through our words
  - Unrestrained words
    - Our words that hurt others
    - Set a destructive course
      - Personal character (witness)
      - Character assignation (others)



## THE GUARDED WORD

Practical Illustrations Of Small But Influential Danger Of The Unbridled Tongue
Out Of Control

- Human nature controlled
  - Course set on fire by hell
- Practical control
  - Animals of all types
  - No one can tame the tongue
- Restless evil
- Full of deadly poison



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### THE GUARDED WORD

Practical Illustrations Of Small But Influential Danger Of The Unbridled Tongue Out Of Control

**Double-Mindedness Revealed** 

- Blessing God
- Cursing those created in the image of God
- Demonstration of our lowered view of God
- Desire to be the judge over others
- Disobedience that leads to Gospel not being shared



# How Are You Demonstrating Your Walk With God Through Your Words?

#### James 1:12-15

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.



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## THE REFLECTIVE WORD

# Spirit Controlled Or Self Controlled

- Four practical examples
  - Spring both fresh and salt water?
  - Fig trees bear olives?
  - Grapes bear figs?
  - · Salt pond give fresh water?
- Led by the Holy Spirit or led by self



## THE REFLECTIVE WORD

Spirit Controlled Or Self Controlled Outward Reflection Of Work Of God

- Religion without an unbridled tongue is worthless
- Hearing and doing because of our heart change

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.



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Only With God...

