



KINSTON FIRST
PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH

MESSAGE REWIND

SERMON NOTES & STUDY GUIDE

Reflect. Discuss. Apply.

Sermon Series: “Everyday Faith” (Study of the Book of James)

Sermon Title: “Faith That Controls The Tongue” (James 3:1-12)

Date: Sunday, September 21st

This message reminds us that our words have power. James compares the tongue to small, but mighty tools. Examples are a bit in a horse’s mouth, a rudder on a ship, and a spark that starts a fire. Though small, words can direct the course of our lives, destroy relationships, or reveal the true state of our hearts. We often try to control our words by willpower, but James says no person can tame the tongue without the help of the Holy Spirit.

Our tongues should be used to bless God and people, not to curse or tear down. Just as steel toe shoes (Personal Protective Equipment) protect feet from being stepped on, some people try to shield themselves from conviction by refusing to let God’s Word touch their lives. But this passage calls all believers to maturity by letting the Spirit control both heart and speech.

In a world filled with harsh voices, hateful rhetoric, and destructive language, the church must live and speak differently. Our words should bring life, healing, and hope.

Message Rewind:

1) The Tongue Directs Your Course (James 3:3-5)

Big Idea: The tongue may be small, but it steers your life just like a bit in a horse’s mouth or a rudder on a ship. Willpower alone cannot control the tongue. We need the Holy Spirit to change us.

- **Scripture:** James 3:3–5; James 3:8; Proverbs 18:21; Genesis 1:3

- **Illustration:** A GPS with the wrong address will always take you to the wrong destination. Negative, fearful, or doubtful words will push your life in the wrong direction.
- **Application:** Speak God's truth over your life. Begin each day with Scriptures and prayers that set your mind and heart on Him. Declare His promises instead of focusing on your problems.
- **Detail:** Your words are like seeds. If you plant doubt, fear, or anger, you will harvest those results. If you plant faith and encouragement, you will harvest peace and strength.

2) The Tongue Can Destroy (James 3:5-8)

Big Idea: A tiny spark can start a forest fire. Careless words can destroy relationships, reputations, and even whole communities.

- **Scripture:** *James 3:5–6; Ephesians 4:29; Psalm 141:3*
- **Illustration:** The Great Chicago Fire reportedly began with one lantern. In the same way, gossip or hateful speech can grow into division and violence.
- **Application:** Slow down and check your words before you speak. Ask yourself: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? If not, do not say it. Pray and ask, "Lord, set a guard over my mouth and fill me with Your Spirit." Lean on the Spirit's power to produce self control.
- **Detail:** Many conflicts in families and churches have started with one thoughtless phrase. Words can either build trust or burn bridges. Choose carefully, because once spoken, words cannot be taken back. Be very careful of idle (careless) words.

3) The Tongue Reveals the Heart (James 3:9-12)

Big Idea: What comes out of the mouth reflects what lives in the heart.

- **Scripture:** *James 3:9–12; Luke 6:45; Mark 12:36-37*
- **Illustration:** A spring cannot pour out both fresh water and salty water. If both blessing and cursing come from your mouth, the problem is in the heart. We can raise our hands in church, then cut someone down with our words in the parking lot. This should not be so.
- **Application:** Invite God to heal hidden pain or anger that leads to destructive words. Ask Him to cleanse your heart so your words flow from His Spirit.
- **Detail:** If bitterness, jealousy, or pride live in the heart, they will eventually come out in speech. Transformation must begin inside before it can change what comes out of our mouths.

Rewind and Reflect: Discussion Questions:

- How have words from others shaped your life for good or bad?
- Where do you most struggle to control your words: home, work, school, or online?
- What do your words reveal about the condition of your heart?
- How can you rely on the Holy Spirit this week to guide your speech?

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to set a guard over your mouth.
- Pray for healing of wounds that fuel angry or harsh words.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to produce patience, love, and self-control in your life.
- Pray that your words bring encouragement and point people to Christ.

Memory Verse:

“Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.” **James 3:10 (NKJV)**

Key Takeaway:

Words are small, but powerful. They can guide, destroy, or reveal. With the Spirit's help, your words can bring life, healing, and direction that honor God.