

JAMES
Tongue Tamer
James 3:1-12

8-21-22

James 3:2 - We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, **he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.**

Perfect means: mature, healthy

Why must I watch what I say?

Three Reasons:

1. My tongue directs where I _____ .

James 3:3-4 - When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are **steered** by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

2. My tongue can destroy what I _____ .

James 3:5-6 - Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a **small spark**. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire... It corrupts the whole person, **sets the whole course of his life** on fire, and is itself **set on fire by hell**.

Whole course of His life means: Circle of life.

Proverbs 21:23 - He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

James 3:7-8 - All kinds of animals...are being tamed and have been tamed by man, ⁸ **but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.**

3. My tongue displays who I _____.

James 3:9-12 - With the tongue **we praise our Lord and Father**, and with it **we curse men**, who have been made in God's likeness.¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

The heart of the matter is the _____.

Matthew 12:34 - You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the **heart the mouth speaks**.

Matthew 15:18 - But the things that **come out of the mouth come from the heart...**

Harsh tongue = Angry heart.

Negative tongue = Fearful heart.

Overactive tongue = Unsettled heart.

Boastful tongue = Insecure heart.

Filthy tongue = Impure heart.

Encouraging tongue = Happy heart.

What's the solution?

1. Get a new _____.

Ezekiel 18:31 - Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Psalms 51:10 - Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

- **My intake affects my output.**

2. Ask God for _____ every moment.

James 3:8 - but no man can tame the tongue...

Psalms 141:3 - Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.

Psalm 19:14- May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

3. Think before you _____.

James 1:19- My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be **quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...**

1 John 1:9- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.