

# THE BEACON

Harrisburg Christian Church  
201 E Sexton St. PO Box 36



## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

**November, 2025**

Greetings HCC,

How about an extreme home makeover!? The letter that James wrote to the believers who had been scattered among the nations is one of the most direct messages in the Bible. We are halfway through our sermon series in James and there is a lot to chew on:

James points out the damage our tongues can cause, at one point stating that "The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell." (3:6)

Careless words cause destruction in our families and certainly play a role in the chaos of our country and culture. James implies that there is also a satanic component to these destructive words. What can we do about this? James even points out that "...no human being can tame the tongue...". Are we powerless to stop this raging fire of words that keeps causing damage to our homes and world? Well,.....yes....and no....

Some tasks are God shaped tasks and living God's way is one of those tasks. James later writes, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." (4:10). For our tongues to be used for building others up and not for destruction, we are going to need to humble ourselves before God and seek his help and strength.

One activity recently that has been humbling me has been a "Tongue Test" that I have been experimenting with. At the writing of this article, I am on day 3 of trying to go a day without violating one of these six standards. I am 0 for 2 so far and thinking I'm going to have to take a vow of silence to get through one day. When I first looked at the list, I thought, "I've got a pretty good handle on my tongue, I should be able to do this."

See next page...

## CONTINUE...

The first two days have been revealing to me that my speech may not be as helpful as I thought. I need God's help to transform my heart and my tongue and to keep me from causing destruction in my home and community. Give it a shot....it may lead you to pray more humbly.

Tongue Test:

1. Do not complain or grumble.
2. Do not boast about anything at all.
3. Do not gossip or repeat bad information about somebody else.
4. Do not run somebody down, even a little bit.
5. Do not defend or excuse yourself, no matter what.
6. Do always affirm other people.

God loves you!  
John Gillman



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## JOHN'S TIDBITS

1. Congratulations to Maggie Beck and Royal Whitaker on your baptisms!
2. Welcome new members: Norm and Elizabeth Hinkle!
3. Thank you to our small group host homes! Byrds, Subletts, Longs, Heads, Williamsons, Blakemores, Woods, and Washburns, we appreciate you! Thanks for feeding students, opening up your house, and using your property to honor God.
4. Did you know that past sermons are on our Church App. Open up the App and look at the bottom of the page, press the media button and click video sermons. More about this article can be found on the sermon that will be given on November 2nd.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY  
MORNINGS AT  
9AM OR 10:30AM



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*You can be apart of it*

Find an event and get connected!

01

### Book of James

Each Sunday we are diving into the book of James. Join a small group for a deeper dive.

02

### Woman's Fellowship

November 8<sup>th</sup>  
11:00-2:30  
Sign up before the event.

03

### Senior Luncheon

November 11<sup>th</sup> in the church basement from 11-12.

04

### Deacons and Elders Meeting

November 25<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-7:30

05

### Harrisburg Cemetery

They are accepting donations.  
Jan Sublett  
PO Box 83  
Harrisburg, MO 65256