

**JAMES:
FAITH
IN ACTION**





TAMING THE TONGUE

James 3:1 – 12

For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is mature, able also to control the whole body.

James 3:2 CSB

Spiritual maturity is directly related to the things you say.

Now if we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we direct their whole bodies. And consider ships: Though very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs

James 3:3–4 CSB

**Speech can teach us things
about the Lord.**

**At the heart of every successful
relationship is healthy
communication skills.**

Consider how a small fire sets ablaze a large forest. And the tongue is a fire.

James 3:5–6 CSB

The tongue, a world of unrighteousness, is placed among our members. It stains the whole body, sets the course of life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

James 3:6 CSB

Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish is tamed and has been tamed by humankind, but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:7-8 CSB

Not many should become teachers, my brothers,
because you know that we will receive a stricter
judgment.

James 3:1 CSB

A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath. The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive, but the mouth of fools blurts out foolishness. The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, observing the wicked and the good. The tongue that heals is a tree of life, but a devious tongue breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 15:1-4 CSB

A worthless person digs up evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

Proverbs 16:27 CSB

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 18:21 CSB

"Spread gossip, and people will not trust you. Speak with sarcasm and insults, and people will not follow you. Yet what is especially on James's mind is not the reaction of others to your speech but the spreading of sin from your speech to the rest of your life. Be hateful with your tongue, and you will be hateful with other aspects of your behavior. If you do not discipline and purify your speech, you will not discipline or purify the rest of your life."

– George Stulac

With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father,
and with it we curse people who are made in
God's likeness.

James 3:9 CSB

Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way.

James 3:10 CSB

Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.

James 3:11–12 CSB

Three ways to bring about good from speech:

Speak in a way that builds up rather than tears down.

“No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.”

Ephesians 4:29 CSB

Three ways to bring about good from speech:

Speak in a way that brings peace, not chaos.

A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath.

Proverbs 15:1 CSB

Three ways to bring about good from speech:

Just don't speak at all.

Even a fool is considered wise when he keeps silent
— discerning, when he seals his lips.

Proverbs 17:28 CSB

Three ways to bring about good from speech:

**Speak in a way that builds up rather than
tears down.**

Ephesians 4:29

Speak in a way that brings peace, not chaos.

Proverbs 15:1

Just don't speak at all.

Proverbs 17:28