

# THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

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JAMES 3:1-12

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# Introduction

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The tongue is **DYNAMITE** in the mouth. It has incredible power to bring people together or to blow them apart.

# YOUR SPEECH MEASURES YOUR MATURITY. (v.1-2)

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## 1. *“...we all stumble...”*

- *Proverbs 10:19*

- a. *“if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man...”*

- b. If you control your tongue, you can control the rest of your body

## 2. We tend to measure our spiritual maturity by our “religious acts.”

- *James 1:26*

# YOUR WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO DIRECT (v.3-4)

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1. A bit guides the entire body of the horse

a. Your tongue can steer the course of your life. It can get you into trouble. Learning to control it can keep you out of trouble.

b. *Proverbs 18:21*

2. A rudder directs the ship.

a. *James 1:19,20; Proverbs 13:3*

b. *“driven by strong winds”* – you can’t control outward circumstances but you need to control your tongue.

# YOUR WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY (v.5-8)

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## 1. The tongue is a FIRE.

- a. Words may seem small, but they spread FAST and their destruction is FAR-REACHING.
- b. Like a forest recovering from a fire, it can take years for TRUST to be rebuilt in a relationship.
- c. *“staining the body”* – Our words pollute our good works.
- d. *“entire course of life”* – words have a way of coming back to bite us throughout our life. They follow us like a criminal record.
- e. *“set on fire by hell”* – Our words can be empowered by hell itself.

# YOUR WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY (v.5-8)

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2. The tongue is an UNTAMABLE BEAST.

3. The tongue is a POISON.

a. The tongue is completely unpredictable, unstable, and deadly.

b. *Ps. 140:3*

# YOUR WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO REVEAL YOUR HEART (v.9-12)

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1. In the natural world, things produce what they were designed to produce.
  - a. A spring produces either fresh water or salt water.
  - b. Fig trees produce figs. Grapevines produce grapes.

# YOUR WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO REVEAL YOUR HEART (v.9-12)

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2. Your tongue **CONTRADICTS** itself when it blesses God and curses people.
  - a. Speaking ill of someone made in God's image is the same thing as **CURSING** God himself.
  - b. Which of our words does God believe? The ones that bless him or curse the people made in His image?



# YOUR WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO REVEAL YOUR HEART (v.9-12)

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3. Your words are tied to your WILL.
  - a. v.4 – *“ship is steered by the rudder wherever the WILL of the pilot directs.”*
  - b. ***Matthew 12:34***