

# James 3:1-12

Oct. 6, 2020

Week 6

James has explained to us two characteristics of the mature christian: he is patient in trouble (James 1) and he practices the truth (James 2). In this section, he shared the third characteristic of the mature believer: he has power over his tongue.

In order impress on us the importance of controlled speech, and the great consequences of our words, James gave us six pictures of the tongue: the bit, the rudder, fire, a poisonous animal, a fountain, and a fig tree. You can put these six pictures into three meaningful classifications that reveal the three powers of the tongues.

I. Power to \_\_\_\_\_ - The Bit and Rudder (3:1-4)

- Those who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ face a stricter judgement.
- Teachers must \_\_\_\_\_ what they teach or their teaching is \_\_\_\_\_.

Christians must admit that “we all stumble in many ways” (v2). And sins of the tongue seem to top the list!

- The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ exercise great \_\_\_\_\_, just like the tongue.
- Both bit and rudder must \_\_\_\_\_.
- The human tongue also must overcome contrary forces. We have an old nature that wants to control us and make us sin.
- Both the bit and rudder must be under \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_.
- When \_\_\_\_\_ controls the tongue, then we need not fear saying the \_\_\_\_\_ things, or saying things the wrong way.

## II. Power to Destroy - The Fire and Animals (3:5-8)

- Our \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ fires.
- Fires start \_\_\_\_\_ and then \_\_\_\_\_.
- Fire \_\_\_\_\_, and the more \_\_\_\_\_ you give it, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ it will spread.
- Fire \_\_\_\_\_, our words have the same power!
- Some \_\_\_\_\_ are poisonous and some \_\_\_\_\_ spread poison.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ thing about poison is that it works \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and then kills.

James reminds us that animals can be tamed, and for that matter, fire can be tamed. When you tame an animal, you get a worker instead of destroyer. When you control fire, you generate power.

## III. Power to Delight - The Fountain and Tree (2:9-12)

Water

- The fountain provides cool \_\_\_\_\_ we need to stay \_\_\_\_\_.
- Proverbs 18:4, Proverbs 10:11

- Water is \_\_\_\_\_ giving and for are our \_\_\_\_\_.
- Water \_\_\_\_\_. Our words can help cleanse and \_\_\_\_\_ others.

Our words ought to be like the river in Ezekiel 47 that brought life to everything it touched!

Tree

- Our words can help \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

If we are going to have tongues that delight, then we must meet with the Lord each day and learn from Him. Let our “spiritual roots” go deep into His word.

Warning:

- A fountain can give two kinds of water: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- A tree can bear two kinds of fruit: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ reproduces after its \_\_\_\_\_!
- If the tongue is \_\_\_\_\_ there is something radically wrong
- with the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Twelve Words that can transform your life:**

“Please” and “Thank you”

“I’m sorry”

“I love you”

“I’m praying for you”