

A Study of the
book of

James

Is your faith visible?

James 1:22 Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves.

James 3

1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. 3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. 4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

James 3

5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.

See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. 7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.

James 3

8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; 10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. 11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

Five general thoughts to consider

1. Include all communication using words – spoken or written
2. James is overwhelmingly negative about the tongue
3. James offers no solutions – he just warns against the poison of the tongue
4. We need to be comfortable with both of these phrases:
 - True faith **WILL** produce works
 - True faith **MUST** produce works
5. Controlling the tongue is only done through the power of the Holy Spirit

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1 Peter 4

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 23

25 “I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ 26 How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? 27 They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. 28 Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the Lord. 29 “Is not my word like fire,” declares the Lord, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

Jeremiah 23

30 “Therefore,” declares the Lord, “I am against the prophets who steal from one another words supposedly from me. 31 Yes,” declares the Lord, “I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, ‘The Lord declares.’ 32 Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,” declares the Lord. “They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least,” declares the Lord.

1. The Tongue is the Window to the Heart

James 3

2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

Matthew 12

33 “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.

34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. 35 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Romans 3

10 As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

13 “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.”

“The poison of vipers is on their lips.”

The Bible refers directly or indirectly to:

a wicked tongue, a deceitful tongue, a lying tongue,
a perverse tongue, a filthy tongue, a corrupt tongue,
a bitter tongue, an angry tongue, a crafty tongue,
a flattering tongue, a slanderous tongue, a gossiping tongue, a
back-biting tongue, a blaspheming tongue,
a foolish tongue, a boasting tongue, a murmuring tongue, a
complaining tongue, a cursing tongue,
a contentious tongue, a sensual tongue, a vile tongue,
a tale-bearing tongue, a whispering tongue, an exaggerating
tongue,

2. If we control our tongue, we will control our whole person

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Ephesians 4

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned
21 when you heard about Christ and were taught
in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.
22 You were taught, with regard to your former
way of life, to put off your old self, which is being
corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made
new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on
the new self, created to be like God in true
righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

3. If we control our tongue, we will control our whole personal life direction

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Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,

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4. If we control our tongue, we will control our whole personal impact on others

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