



The Power of My Words

July 1 & 2, 2023

James 3:1-12 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

My Tenacious Tongue Can:

- Cause conflict or calm a situation.

Proverbs 15:1 (TPT)

Respond gently when you are confronted and you'll defuse the rage of another. Responding with sharp, cutting words will only make it worse. Don't you know that being angry can ruin the testimony of even the wisest of men?

- Create lies or cultivate a good life.

1 Peter 3:10 (TPT)

For the Scriptures tell us: Whoever wants to embrace true life and find beauty in each day.

- **Corrupt others or communicate grace.**

Ephesians 4:29 (KJV)

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

- **Condemn a life or compel someone to salvation.**

Matthew 12:36-37 (TPT)

You can be sure of this: when the day of judgment comes, everyone will be held accountable for every careless word he has spoken. Your very words will be used as evidence, and your words will declare you either innocent or guilty.

1 Corinthians 1:20-21 (NLT)

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

The Power of My Words Can:

1

Determine the direction of my life.

James 3:3 (TPT)

Horses have bits and bridles in their mouths so that we can control and guide their large body.

James 3:4 (TPT)

And the same with mighty ships, though they are massive and driven by fierce winds, yet they are steered by a tiny rudder at the direction of the person at the helm.

Proverbs 18:21 (TPT)

Your words are so powerful that they will kill or give life, and the talkative person will reap the consequences.

2

Decimate the people I love.

James 3:5-6 (TPT)

And so the tongue is a small part of the body yet it carries great power! Just think of how a small flame can set a huge forest ablaze. And the tongue is a fire! It can be compared to the sum total of wickedness and is the most dangerous part of our human body. It corrupts the entire body and is a hellish flame! It releases a fire that can burn throughout the course of human existence.

Proverbs 21:23-24 (TPT)

Watch your words and be careful what you say, and you'll be surprised by how few troubles you'll have. An arrogant man is inflated with pride – nothing but a snooty scoffer in love with his own opinion.

James 3:8b (TPT)

It's a fickle, unrestrained evil that spews out words full of toxic poison!

3

Display my discernment or immaturity.

James 3:9-10 (TPT)

We use our tongue to praise God our Father and then turn around and curse a person who was made in his very image! Out of the same mouth we pour out words of praise one minute and curses the next. My brothers and sisters, this should never be!

Proverbs 17:28 (TPT)

When even a fool bites his tongue he's considered wise. So shut your mouth when you are provoked—it will make you look smart.

How to Manage the Power of My Words:

- **Accept my human limitations and surrender to God.**

James 3:2 (TPT)

We all fail in many areas, but especially with our words. Yet if we're able to bridle the words we say we are powerful enough to control ourselves in every way, and that means our character is mature and fully developed.

Romans 6:13-14 (TPT)

So then, refuse to answer its call to surrender your body as a tool for wickedness. Instead, passionately answer God's call to keep yielding your body to him as one who has now experienced resurrection life! You live now for his pleasure, ready to be used for his noble purpose. Remember this: sin will not conquer you, for God already has! You are not governed by law but governed by the reign of the grace of God.

- **Engage my mind with a humble heart.**

James 3:10b-13 (MSG)

My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you? Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly.

James 1:19-21 (MSG)

Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.

Ephesians 4:15 (GW)

Instead, as we lovingly speak the truth, we will grow up completely in our relationship to Christ, who is the head.

Psalms 51:10-12 (NLT)

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

Memory Verse

James 3:2 (NLT)

Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.



Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

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