

HOW TO MANAGE YOUR TONGUE

Developing a Faith That Works

James 3:1-12

"... 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." James 3:2 (NLT)

I. WHY MUST I WATCH WHAT I SAY?

(3) Reasons

1) MY TONGUE DIRECTS WHERE I GO. (vs. 3-4)

"When we put **bits into the mouths of horses** ... we can turn the whole animal." James 3:3 (NIV)

"Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a **very small rudder** wherever the pilot wants to go." James 3:4 (NIV)

2) MY TONGUE CAN DESTROY WHAT I HAVE. (vs. 5-8)

"Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue is also a fire ..." James 3:5-6 (NIV)

"... it sets the whole course of his life on fire. And is itself set on fire by hell." James 3:6b

"If you want to stay out of trouble, be careful what you say!"
Proverbs 21:23 (GNT)

"All kinds of animals ... have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." James 3:7-8

3) MY TONGUE DISPLAYS WHO I AM. (vs. 9-12)

It's inconsistent: vs. 9.

"With the tongue we praise our Lord Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness."
James 3:9 (NIV)

"Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers... this should not be." James 3:10 (NIV)

"Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?... can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs?"
Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."
James 3:11 (NIV)

THE PROBLEM: THE HEART

"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks."
Matthew 12:34

"But the words you speak come from the heart—that's what defiles you. ¹⁹ For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander."
Matthew 15:18-19

II. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

▪ GET A NEW HEART

"Rid yourself of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit!" Ezekiel 18:31 (NIV)

"Create in me a clean heart, O God..." Psalms 51:10 (KJV)

▪ ASK GOD FOR HELP EVERYDAY

"Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips." Psalm 141:3. Also Palm 19:14

▪ THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1:19 (NIV)

I'd love to hear your stories & feedback: phoebegdial@gmail.com

