

# James 3:1-12

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# Review

- Consider Trials a Joy – endured they bring perfection/completion (1:1-4)
- If you lack wisdom ask God in Faith (1:5-8)
- Glory in Humility (1:9-11)
- Persevere Trials/Temptation, cultivating implanted Word into Fruit (1:12-18)
- Grow in Word by *doing* it, marked by (1:19-27):
  - Care Others (2:1-13) – Not faith + negative action
    - Faith & Works (2:14-26) – Not faith & no action
  - Controlled Tongue (3:1-12)
  - Life of Holiness (3:13-5:6)

# James 3:1-2 – The Teacher

- “Let not many of you become teachers”
  - Who?
  - Why?
- What is teacher’s downfall?
- What is the specific (Hypothetical) Example James gives?

# James 3:2a-13 – The Tongue

- Think about Scripture as a whole – what are some examples of the importance of the spoken word, lips, tongue, etc.?
- How about the book of James?
  - 1:13-14 – blame / self-justifying speech
  - 1:19 – quick or angry speech
  - 1:26 – **unbridled tongue deceives heart**
  - 2:3-4 – judgmental speech
  - 2:16 – speech without action
  - 2:18 – self-justifying speech
  - 3:1-12 – tongue influence on and reflection of our heart
  - 4:11 – speak against one another
  - 4:13 – boasting
  - 5:1-5 – cry of misery in judgment
  - 5:9 – complaining tongue
  - 5:12 – swearing tongue
  - 5:13-18 – in the positive: sing, pray, confess!

# James 3:2a-5a – The Tongue Positive

- What are James' two examples?
- What is he illustrating?
- Who is in control in the illustrations?
  - What is the significance of this?

# James 3:5b-8 – The Tongue Negative

- Such power in our hands seems great (v. 5a), but what is the danger (v. 5b)?
- What analogies does James use here?
- What is the significance of the Fire Analogy?
  - What actions of tongue might this be?
- What is the significance of the Wild Nature?
- This all sounds pretty bleak... Can we do anything about the Tongue?

# James 3:9-12 – The Source / Root

- What is the tongue problem in vv. 9-10?
  - How does this relate back to Faith & Works?
- What do the illustrations reveal (vv. 11-12)?
  - Quality demonstrated by Consistency
  - Nature of Product reveals Nature of Source
  - How do these relate back to the Tongue?

# Application

- The Tongue & Word are very important in Scripture
  - We should take seriously the Word of God & the power of our own Words.
- The Danger of Hypocrisy
  - We can appear to be controlling our tongue, but it can really be a lie covering up our heart.
- The Source / Root – our Hearts; need a Heart transplant & who can do that?
  - “receive the Word implanted which is able to save your souls” (1:26)
  - If anyone lacks wisdom: ask in Faith of God who gives generously (1:5-6)
- Next Time: James 3:13-18