

**Agape House of Worship  
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Book Study: Epistle of James  
Part 6 - James 3:1-12: Taming the Tongue**

**Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022  
Facilitator: Pastor Tunde Odeyemi**

<b>Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Key Texts</b>	<b>Topic</b>
10/12/2022	Part 1 - Overview of the Book of James	Overview of the Book of James
10/19/2022	Part 2 - James 1:1-18	Responding to Suffering and Trials
10/26/2022	Part 3 - James 1:19-27	Listening, Doing and Speaking
11/2/2022	Part 4 - James 2:1-12	Warning Against Favoritism
11/9/2022	Part 5 - James 2:14-26	Relationship Between Faith and Works
11/16/2022	Part 6 - James 3:1-12	Taming the Tongue
11/23/2022	Part 7 - James 3:13-18	Reacting with Wisdom
11/30/2022	Part 8 - James 4:1-12	Submitting Yourself to God
12/7/2022	Part 9 - James 4:13 - 5:6	Warning Against Boastfulness
12/14/2022	Part 10 - James 5:7-20	Patience and Prayer

**Introduction**

Most Christians have heard it said that “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” The words we speak are very powerful! James in this passage begins to shed light on just how powerful our tongue is and why He said earlier in chapter one that those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

**The Teacher.**

**James 3:1** *Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.*

**Hebrews 5:11-12** *11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!*

**Colossians 3:16** *16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

**Question-** Who is a teacher in this context and what does James mean by not many should become teachers? Luke 12:47-48.

**Human Fallibility.** James 3:2.

We all stumble (sin, fall short, offend, make mistakes) in many ways. 1 John 1:5-10

What you say or are constantly saying is key to keeping you from always stumbling. It is key to keeping your whole body, your flesh in check.

What you say and what you don’t say are both important. Proper speech is not only saying the right words at the right time, but it is also controlling your desire to say what you shouldn’t. Examples of an untamed tongue include gossiping, putting others down, bragging, manipulating, false teaching, exaggerating, complaining, flattering and lying. Before you speak, ask, “Is what I want to say true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?” Philippians 4:8.

**Question-** Does God excuse human fallibility in Believers?

**Your words determine the direction of your life.** James 3:3-4

**Proverbs 18:20-21** *From the fruit of their mouth a person's stomach is filled; with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied. 21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

What you say is an expression of what you believe in your heart. Romans 10:9-10. We learned last week that faith must find expression through our actions. It must also find expression through our words! Mark 11:22-23

**Mark 5:27-29(AMPC)** *27 She had heard the reports concerning Jesus, and she came up behind Him in the throng and touched His garment, 28 For she kept saying, If I only touch His garments, I shall be restored to health. 29 And immediately her flow of blood was dried up at the source, and *[[a]suddenly]* she felt in her body that she was healed of her *[[b]distressing]* ailment.*

**Your tongue can boast, corrupt you and set your life on fire.** James 3:5-6

Boasting- Jeremiah 9:23-24. 1 Corinthians 13:4

Corruption- Matthew 15:11,18-19.

James compares that damage the tongue can do to a raging fire- the tongue's wickedness has its source in hell itself. The uncontrolled tongue can do terrible damage. Satan uses the tongue to divide people and pit them against one another. Idle and hateful words are damaging because they spread destruction quickly, and no one can stop the results once they are spoken. We dare not be careless with what we say, thinking we can apologize later, because even if we do, the scars remain. A few words spoken in anger can destroy a relationship that took years to build. Before you speak, remember that words are like fire- you can neither control nor reverse the damage they can do.

**Taming the tongue.** James 3:8-12

No human being can tame the tongue!

Our contradictory speech often puzzles us (at least it should!).

**Question-** At times our words are right and pleasing to God, but at other times they are violent and destructive. Which of these speech patterns reflect our true identity?

The tongue gives us a picture of our basic human nature. We were made in God's image, but we have also fallen into sin. God works to change us from the inside out. When the Holy Spirit purifies a heart, He gives self-control so that the person will speak words that please God.

Remember that we are not fighting the tongue's fire in our own strength. The Holy Spirit gives us power to monitor and control what we say, so that when we are offended, the Spirit will remind us of God's love and we won't react in a hateful manner. When we are criticized, the Spirit will heal the hurt, and we won't lash out. When we are afraid or troubled, the Spirit reminds us of God's power in us!