

## Lesson 5

# TAMING YOUR TONGUE

But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison  
(James 3:8).

### READ JAMES 3:1-12: GOD'S WARNING ON WHAT WE SAY

James warns teachers to guard their tongues, because with one word they could misrepresent God and stumble others. Then James applies the warning to all generally—pointing out how dangerous the tongue is, how hard it is to control, and emphasizing the maturity of a person who can practice self-control on what they say.

Having self-control in what we say is an excellent biblical principle to learn and it will give us victory in trials and temptations.

1. Write James 3:2.

Have you ever said things that later you wished you hadn't or offended somebody by a rash statement you made? That's stumbling in your words. And if you don't do that, you're perfect or mature. You're able to bridle, or control, your whole body. You've got things under control.

2. In James 3:3-5, James gives three illustrations to show us how much our tongue (words) affects our whole being. What are these three illustrations?

1.

2.

3.

3. In James 3:6, what is the tongue compared to?

The word *iniquity* means "gross immorality," or "perversity," "wickedness," "evil."

4. Write out the remainder of James 3:6.

5. Explain verse 6 in your own words.

When our words are given over to a destructive purpose, they have the potential to destroy and devastate people. This is the same objective as that of hell. So many people have had their reputation destroyed, their lives ruined, because of what someone has said. This is a destructive power, like the fire of hell.

6. Write James 3:7-8.

7. According to James 3:9, what is our tongue capable of doing?

It is inconsistent that we would praise and bless God, and then curse and destroy a person who is made in the likeness of God.

8. Write James 3:10.

9. Write the three illustrations in James 3:11-12 about what comes out of a mouth.

1.

2.

3.

Our words can build up or tear down—comfort or destroy—encourage or discourage.

10. Write Psalm 37:30-31.

11. Write Proverbs 17:27-28.

12. Write Ecclesiastes 5:2.

13. Write Matthew 12:36-37.

14. Write Ephesians 4:29.

So what should a believer in Christ be talking about? You should be talking about the Lord! Discuss God's truth with others. If God's Word is in your heart, it will be the center of your conversations. When you speak God's Word, it will strengthen you when trials and temptations come.

15. Write James 1:19.