

BIBLE STUDY

James 3:1-12

2/27/16

KEEP FROM STUMBLING = TONGUE CONTROL

³ My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many things. **If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.** ³ Indeed, ^[a] we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. ⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. ⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

Q1: What is James intention in verse 1?

Q2: What role does our speech have in our lives?

Q3: What 2 examples does James use to demonstrate the role of our tongue/speech?

What does each example teach us about how important our tongue is? **(IMAGES)**

DEFILE THE WHOLE BODY= TONGUE FIRE/POISON

See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶ And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that **it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.** ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Q4: What negative descriptors & characteristics does James use for the tongue?

(GO OUTSIDE & LIGHT A CHRISTMAS TREE ON FIRE)

Q5: How does verse 8 and verse 2 correlate? What does that teach us?

KISS YOUR FATHER WITH THAT MOUTH?

⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ **Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.** My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus **no spring yields both salt water and fresh.** ^[b]

Q6: What contradiction does James bring up about the tongue?

Q7: What 3 examples are used to teach us about having hypocritical speech?

What does each example teach us about how important sincere speech is? **(IMAGES)**



