

sermon notes

Tony Caffey | Verse By Verse Fellowship | Prove Your Faith
March 15, 2023 | "Tame Thy Tongue" | **James 3:1-12**

1) Our tongues are _____ but _____
(3:1-6)

2) Our tongues are _____ by human power
(3:7-8)

3) Our tongues are _____ for good and not evil
(3:9-12)

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Look up all the Scriptures (especially the Proverbs) that speak of the tongue. For quick access go to <https://www.openbible.info/topics/> and type "tongue" in the search panel. What are some sins that are commonly committed by our tongues? Are there any "sins of the tongue" that you are particularly vulnerable to?

Why does Solomon say that "death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Prov 18:21)? Why does Solomon say that "Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble" (Prov 21:23)? Process these Proverbs in light of the gospel. What comfort does God offer us when we fail with our tongues?

GET PERSONAL

The Bible says, "There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" (Prov 12:18). How might your tongue be used for healing instead of "sword thrusts"? Why is it important for us to be selective with the use of our tongues (see Prov 16:23; 17:27; 25:11-12)?

James says that our tongues can be used to bless God, but they can also be used to curse men and women made in God's image (3:9). When are you tempted to curse, demean, or verbally abuse others? Why is this an offense to God? What is the ultimate remedy for our unruly tongues if they are "untamable" (Jas 3:7-8)?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

If you struggle with your tongue, consider memorizing Scriptures that speak about the power of the tongue for good and not evil. Start with a few Proverbs (e.g. 12:18; 15:1; 16:23; 17:27; 25:11-12). But you should also commit to prayer and ask God to change your heart, since the mouth speaks out of the overflow of the heart (Luke 6:45). Also start confessing your struggles with your tongue to a trusted friend who can pray with you and keep you accountable. Disclose your struggle in a small group and recruit other prayer partners to help you.

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

Is it possible to tame your tongue and lose your soul? Is it possible to be a saved follower of Jesus, and yet have no control whatsoever on your speech? How do you know if you are only curtailing the negative effects of the tongue through behavior modification and not experiencing true, lasting change? How do you know whether or not it is an actual work of the Holy Spirit that is inside of you?