



Taming the Tongue - James 3:1-12

1. The _____ of the tongue: The tongue is linked _____ to the _____ and no man can _____ it. (v 1-2)

2. The _____ of the tongue: The tongue has the power to _____ your life as well as to _____ it. (v 3-6)

3. The _____ of the tongue: The _____ tongue can be used for great _____, while the _____ tongue can be used for great _____. (v 7-12)

4. The _____ of the tongue: Allow the _____ to _____ your tongue as the Spirit enables you to _____ in a _____ faith.

Will you resolve to allow the Lord to transform your tongue through your spirit-energized commitment to the growth and maturity of your faith?

Here are 20 directives that can be found in the book of James regarding our speech. Will you prayerfully consider each directive and allow the Lord to mold and change you in any area He indicates? By faith, let's resolve to respond to the Lord together!

1) Resolved: To ask God for wisdom to speak and to do so with a single mind.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. . . . in faith with no doubting. . . . For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything . . . he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways" (James 1:5–8).

2) Resolved: To boast only in my exaltation in Christ or my humiliation in the world.

"Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away" (James 1:9–10).

3) Resolved: To set a watch over my mouth.

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one" (James 1:13).

4) Resolved: To be constantly quick to hear, slow to speak.

"Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" (James 1:19).

5) Resolved: To learn the gospel way of speaking to the poor and the rich.

"My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, 'You sit here in a good place,' while you say to the poor man, 'You stand over there,' or, 'Sit down at my feet,' have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?" (James 2:1–4).

6) Resolved: To speak in the consciousness of the final judgment.

"So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty" (James 2:12).

7) Resolved: To use consistency in my speech and conduct.

"If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?" (James 2:15–16).

8) Resolved: To speak honestly about my own heart condition.

"If you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth" (James 3:14).

9) Resolved: To resist quarrelsome words as marks of a bad heart.

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?” (James 4:1).

10) Resolved: To never speak evil of another.

“Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge” (James 4:11).

11) Resolved: To never boast in what I will accomplish.

“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’ — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes” (James 4:13).

12) Resolved: To always speak as one who is subject to the providences of God.

“Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that’” (James 4:15).

13) Resolved: To never grumble, knowing that the Judge is at the door.

“Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door” (James 5:9).

14) Resolved: To never allow anything but total integrity in my speech.

“But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your ‘yes’ be yes and your ‘no’ be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation” (James 5:12).

15) Resolved: To speak to God in prayer whenever I suffer.

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray” (James 5:13).

16) Resolved: To sing praises to God whenever I am cheerful.

“Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise” (James 5:13).

17) Resolved: To ask for the prayers of others when I am sick.

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord” (James 5:14).

18) Resolved: To confess it whenever I have failed.

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another” (James 5:16).

19) Resolved: To pray for one another when I am together with others in need.

“Pray for one another, that you may be healed” (James 5:16).

20) Resolved: To speak words of restoration when I see another wander.

“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:19–20).



DAY 1

Pray: Romans 11:33 says, “Oh the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!” As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to open your eyes to who He is and to help you to walk in His steps.

Memorize: James 2:14-18

Which verse doesn't finish the sentence and speaks of lacking food? James 2: _____. Please write it out.

Study: Please read James 3:13-18. Today we'll focus on vs. 13.

1. How does our conduct expose whether or not we are wise and understanding? _____

2. To understand the difference between a fool and a wise person, please fill in the following chart from Proverbs 10:

Verse	Actions of the wise	Actions of the fool
2		
8		
9		
14		
16		

17		
19		
23		
28		
29		

3. What conclusions do you draw from comparing the actions of the fool to the actions of the wise? _____

4. From these verses in Proverbs...
 - a. In what areas of your life do you line up with the fool more than the wise? _____

 - b. What is difficult about laying the foolish things down? _____

 - c. What are the benefits of asking God for wisdom in those specific areas? (Remember from James 1:5, God gives wisdom generously to those who ask.) _____

Pray: Please close this time in prayer, thanking God that there is no foolishness in Him, and asking Him for His wisdom in your circumstances.



DAY 2

Pray: Jeremiah 9:24 says, “But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight,” declares the LORD.” As you open this time in prayer, please take some time to thank the Lord for His steadfast love, justice, and righteousness, and ask Him to help you to delight in those things as well.

Memorize: James 2:14-18

Which verse challenges us to show our faith without works? James 2: ____ Please write it out.

Study: Please read James 3:13-18. Today we’ll focus on vs. 13-16.

The word “meekness” in the phrase *meekness of wisdom* in vs. 13 is defined as: gentle strength; expresses power with reserve and gentleness.

1. Please describe the following words as well as their opposite meaning:
 - a. Bitter jealousy
 - i. Meaning: _____

 - ii. Opposite: _____

 - b. Selfish ambition
 - i. Meaning: _____

 - ii. Opposite: _____

2. How are bitter jealousy and selfish ambition equivalent to boasting and being false to the truth?

3. In the following scenarios, how would a person show her works in the meekness of wisdom rather than with bitter jealousy or selfish ambition?

a. You are on a plane where a mother is screaming at her 4 year old child. It is 10:30 at night and both the mother and child are frustrated and exhausted... _____

b. You are volunteering for a ministry at church. The person in charge continues to place you in roles that you feel are less than what you are capable of... _____

c. You just found out that someone in your impact group or discussion group has said something to someone else about you... _____

d. You are frustrated with someone you are close with and feel that they are making wrong choices that affect you... _____

4. Why are we so drawn to respond to our circumstances with bitterness and selfishness? _____

5. What 5 things do vs. 14-15 say is true of wisdom stemming from bitter jealousy and selfish ambition?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

6. Please think of a situation in your life when you responded from selfish ambition or bitter jealousy.

a. In what ways do you see the list from question #5 being true in your situation? _____

b. How did it affect your relationships? _____



- c. How did it affect your attitude? _____

- d. How would you have responded differently if you had responded with the meekness of wisdom? _____

Pray: Please close this time in prayer, confessing to the Lord any area of your life where you are struggling with bitterness or selfishness. Thank Him for His mercy and transforming power that keeps us from being stuck in our sin.

DAY 3

Pray: 1 Corinthians 1:25 says, “For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to give you a better understanding of His wisdom, and ask Him to help you to bow to His wisdom and strength over man’s.

Memorize: James 2:14-18

Please write out the verse that questions whether or not it’s good to have faith without works: _____

James 2: _____

Study: Please read James 3:13-18. Today we’ll focus on vs. 17.

1. Please describe the following phrases used to define wisdom (You may want to use www.thesaurus.com):
 - a. Pure _____

 - b. Peaceable _____

- c. Open to reason _____

- d. Full of mercy _____

- e. Full of good fruits _____

- f. Impartial _____

- g. Sincere _____

2. Please describe the opposite of the meaning of the those phrases:

- a. Pure _____

- b. Peaceable _____

- c. Open to reason _____

- d. Full of mercy _____

- e. Full of good fruits _____

- f. Impartial _____

- g. Sincere _____

3. Examining your own life, in what areas from the list above do you need the Lord's strength to grow in wisdom? _____

4. Please explain what the following verses from Proverbs tell you about wisdom?

- a. Proverbs 2:6-7 _____
- b. Proverbs 8:11 _____
- c. Proverbs 9:10 _____

- d. Proverbs 11:2 _____
 - e. Proverbs 13:10 _____
 - f. Proverbs 14:8 _____
 - g. Proverbs 21:30 _____
 - h. Proverbs 28:26 _____
 - i. Proverbs 29:15 _____
5. What aspects of wisdom from these passages impact you in your present circumstances? Why?

6. What obstacles hinder your growth in wisdom? _____

7. What is one aspect of wisdom you will make a matter of prayer, asking the Lord to help you grow to be more like Him? _____

Pray: Please close this time in prayer, telling the Lord what you learned today.

DAY 4

Pray: Proverbs 3:5-8 says, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.” As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to show you where you are being “wise in your own eyes,” and ask Him to help you to turn away from those things and turn to Him. Thank Him that when you do that, He makes your paths straight and He brings healing and refreshment.

Memorize: James 2:14-18

Please write the verse that gives an example of not living out our faith. _____

James 2: _____

Study: Please read James 3:13-18. Today we'll focus on vs. 17-18.

1. Please compare Proverbs 3:7 with vs. 17. How is being wise in our own eyes against the wisdom from above? _____

2. How do you think the world's wisdom differs from God's wisdom in phrases like:

a. Follow your heart... (Jeremiah 17:9) _____

b. God just wants you to be happy... (1 Peter 1:6-7) _____

c. "I'm glad it's true for you, but that's not my truth..." (John 14:6) _____

d. All roads lead to God... (John 14:6, Matthew 7:13-14) _____

e. The Bible is just an ancient writing with nice parables that are totally outdated... (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 13:8) _____

3. In what "wisdom" from the world do you find yourself getting caught? _____

4. What truth from God's word can you use to stop the worldly wisdom? _____

5. Please explain what the following verses tell you about "a harvest of righteousness."

a. Isaiah 32:16-18 _____

b. Hosea 10:12 _____



- c. Romans 6:20-21 _____

 - d. Galatians 6:7-8 _____

 - e. Hebrews 12:11 _____

 - f. James 3:18 _____

6. What conclusions can you draw about earthly wisdom vs. godly wisdom from this passage?

7. How are your relationships affected when you respond...
- a. In earthly wisdom (vs. 14, 16)? _____

 - b. In godly wisdom (vs. 17-18)? _____

8. How is your relationship with God affected when you respond to your circumstances...
- a. In earthly wisdom? _____

 - b. In godly wisdom? _____

Pray: James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." Please close this time in prayer, asking the Lord for the wisdom described in James 3:17. Please tell the Lord what specific areas of your life you need His wisdom.

DAY 5

Pray: Proverbs 2:6-10 says, “For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.” Please thank the Lord for His generosity in giving wisdom, knowledge, and understanding; for shielding you and guarding you. Ask Him to help you to walk in integrity, to follow Him, and to embrace His wisdom and knowledge that is sweet to your soul.

Memorize: James 2:14-18

Please write out the verse that tells us that faith without works is dead. _____

James 2: _____

Please quote James 2:14-18 out loud.

Study: As we close out this study, *FaithWorks*, let’s take some time to review what we’ve learned from James 1-3. Please read James 1-3.

1. From James 1:1-18, *Persevering Faith...*

a. How does this passage affect your understanding of the trials you face? _____

b. If someone asked you why you shouldn’t be ashamed to ask God for wisdom, what reason would you give her? _____

c. What connection is there between wisdom, sin, and trials? _____

2. From James 1:19-27, *Responsive Faith...*

a. What did you learn about your own heart as you studied about responsive faith? _____

- b. What steps will you take to develop a heart that responds quickly to the word and voice of the Lord especially in the midst of difficult circumstances? _____

3. From James 2:1-13, *Impartial Faith...*
- a. How has this passage shaped your understanding of how to treat people who are different from you? _____

- b. What is your understanding of sin and being accountable to the law of liberty? _____

4. From James 2:14-26, *Living Faith...*
- a. What is the connection between faith and works? _____

- b. How does the connection between faith and works challenge you in the way you live out your faith? _____

5. From James 3:1-12, *Maturing Faith...*
- a. Which analogy of the tongue spoke the most to your own life and why? _____

- b. How can you walk in the Spirit so that your tongue can come under the rule of the Lord? _____

6. From James 3:13-18, *Wise Faith...*
- a. What is the difference between the world's faith and God's faith? _____

7. How do you see the life of Jesus reflecting
- a. Standing up under trial? _____

b. Showing His faith by His works? _____

c. Walking by the Spirit? _____

d. Wisdom? _____

8. What has most deeply impacted your faith through this study? _____

Pray: As you close this time and this study in prayer, please tell the Lord what you're thankful for, what you've learned, and what steps you'll take to pursue a deeper relationship with Him. _____
