

JAMES 3:1-12

(NIV)

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

2 **We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.**

3 When we put **bits into the mouths of horses** to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

4 Or take **ships** as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they **are steered by a very small rudder** wherever the pilot wants to go.

5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what **a great forest is set on fire by a small spark**.

6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but **no human being can tame the tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 **Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.**

11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.



On Three Key Make-or-Break Areas of Life

Want to keep life from spinning out of control?
Want to enrich your life and the lives of those around you?
Want to find true success and satisfaction?

We will consider three key areas that can determine success or failure, satisfaction or disappointment, victory or defeat:

MONEY, MORALS, MOUTH

Part 3

Get A Grip On Your Mouth



TOP TEN TALKING TIPS FROM PROVERBS

1. Be a Good Listener

18:2, 18:13, 18:15, 18:17, 19:2, 19:20, 20:5, 22:17, 25:12

Ask more questions before drawing conclusions or expressing opinions.

2. Think Before You Speak

10:8, 12:23, 13:3, 15:28, 17:27, 21:23, 29:20

Be controlled and guarded in speech; consider the impact of your words.

3. Hold Your Tongue 10:19, 11:12, 17:28

Incline toward saying less, not more. Put a filter on it.

4. Avoid Gossip and Slander

10:18, 11:13, 16:28, 17:9, 18:8, 20:19, 26:20

*Talk TO people, not about them;
only say about them what you will say to them.*

5. Avoid Quarreling and Disputes

13:10, 17:14, 17:19, 18:19, 20:3, 22:10, 26:17, 26:21

Manage disagreements with humility and wisdom.

6. Be Timely 10:32, 15:23, 25:11

Be careful not only with what you say but when you say it.

7. Be Gentle 15:1, 22:11, 25:15

Help avoid and defuse potential anger through a gentle tone.

8. Be Patient 15:18, 17:27

Help avoid and defuse quarrels with a calm, even-tempered approach.

9. Be Honest 16:13, 17:20

Provide accurate information and sincere opinions.

10. Be Kind 12:25

Help to lift a downcast heart through words of kindness.

A WORD TO THE WISE ON WORDS

WORDS HAVE VALUE

The tongue of the righteous is choice silver. 10:20

Lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel. 20:15

WORDS HAVE POWER

To Cheer

An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up. (12:25)

To Instruct

The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools. (15:7)

The wise are called discerning; pleasant words promote instruction. (16:21)

A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction. (16:23)

To Give Joy

My inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. 23:16

To Trap or Rescue

The speech of the upright rescues them. (12:6)

An evil man is trapped by his sinful talk. (12:13)

To Punish or Protect

A fool's talk bring a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them. (14:3)

To Pierce or Heal

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

(12:18) Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the

bones. (16:24)

THE TONGUE HAS THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH. 18:21