

OUR WORDS UNDER CONTROL **JAMES 3:1-12**

WORDS HOLD ENORMOUS POWER...

TO GUIDE.

3:1-5a

- With increased influence comes increased responsibility.
- We are all deeply prone to the wrong use of our words.
- Like the ship's rudder and horse's bit, our words have the _____ to steer the course of life toward blessing or destruction.

TO DESTROY.

3:5b-8

- Like a small spark that ignites a raging fire, our words can cause devastating damage.
- Satan uses our sinful words as tools for his evil purposes.
- In our own strength we cannot _____ our tongue. It requires the Lord's help and wisdom.

TO TEAR DOWN OR BUILD UP.

3:9-12

- We _____ _____ praise God then hypocritically disparage those He created.
- It is wholly unnatural for Christ followers to use our words for both good *and* evil.
- Like a fresh spring, words of encouragement and grace give life to those who hear them.

HOW CAN WE WISELY KEEP WATCH OVER OUR WORDS?

Recognize our words reflect the condition of our hearts.

Pursue Jesus so He can change our hearts.

Honestly assess our daily speech habits before the Lord.

Ask the Holy Spirit for self-control.

Commit to using the gift of speech for God's glory.

Living Wisdom – James 3:1-12

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LUKE 12:48b Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

PSALM 39:1 I said, “I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, so long as the wicked are in my presence.”

LUKE 6:45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

PSALM 141:3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

JAMES 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him.

JAMES 1:22-24 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in the mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

EPHESIANS 4:29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

PSALM 49: 3 For my words are wise, and my thoughts are filled with insight. (NLT)