

## “Tame Your Tongue!”

James 3:1-12

“Living Out What Lies Within” – A Message Series in James

Pastor Paul Bartelme

New Vintage Church, West Allis



“Sticks and stones may break my bones... but words will never hurt me.” – *Yeah, right!* (Prov 25:15)

- Prov 18:21 – “Power of life and death is in the \_\_\_\_\_.” Ever heard/said the following statements?
  - “I’m not going to waste my time talking to you.” (Calling into question your intelligence)
  - “You’re a failure. Why are you acting like a child?” (Inducing guilt and embarrassment)
  - “I don’t care what you do anymore. I don’t need you.” (Threats of abandonment)
  - Wow, how about speaking life instead? The power is in your mouth to tear down or build up!!
- As Christians, we are encouraged by the Holy Spirit to develop \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal 5:22-23). This contributes towards the “*life to the full*” that Jesus promises is available to us (Jn 10:10).

*This morning, we’ll explore some ways to develop self-discipline by taming the tongue. But first...*

**Our main text provides insight...** to have \_\_\_\_\_ over this huge area in life! James 3:1-12.

- **V 2b...** This drives the point home regarding the degree of impact the tongue has over one’s life!
- **VV 3-4...** James provides examples to give us greater understanding. *His point is that if you can control your tongue, you can control your tongue (Prov 29:20)!*
- **VV 5-6...** The dramatic imagery of a forest fire is fitting (Prov 16:27)!
- **VV 7-8...** Impossible for man to tame the tongue, revealing our desperate need for God’s grace.
  - Stop starting new fires. Put out the current one (Mt 19:26; Phil 4:13; Psa 141:3).
- **VV 9-12...** If this is the case for us, then how can we say we love God (1 Jn 4:20-21)?

**“Okay, pastor I really want to experience God’s grace in this area in my life! But how?”**

- 1. Keep purifying your \_\_\_\_\_! “Garbage in, garbage out”, right?
- 2. Think the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Phil 4:8; 1 Cor 2:16)
- 3. Ask Jesus to give you His \_\_\_\_\_ (“Give Me Your Eyes” – song by Brandon Heath)
- 4. Understand that you’re an \_\_\_\_\_. God calls you to build up, not tear down. He calls you to speak into existence who people are in Christ... life; e.g. healing, deliverance, etc. (Gen 1; Psa 33:6-9; Prov 18:21; “Speak Life” – song by Toby Mac).

**In closing, some action steps:** 1) Put out an existing fire, 2) Think about what you’re thinking about, 3) Complement others / Give affirmation / If you’re going to make up a story, make it a good one, 4) Fake it ‘til you make it.

**That whole “life to the full” thing?** It’s for real! Taming your tongue helps get you there!