



Tongue Control

Text: James 3:1-12 (#6 in series)

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Theme: **Controlled speech is an essential indicator of spiritual maturity.**

The challenge of controlling your speech.

1. Based in its untamed and untamable nature.
(7-8; see also Matthew 12:34-35; 15:18-19; Jeremiah 17:9)
2. Seen in its inconsistent and contradictory nature. (9-12)

The damage from not controlling your speech.

1. The *small* thing boasts of great things. (5; see also Psalm 19:1-4a; Romans 1:20-23)
2. This fire from hell sets great fires. (5-6)
3. This restless evil and potent poison defiles the entire body. (6-8)

The Importance Of Controlling Your Speech.

1. Essential to leadership. (1)
2. Essential to spiritual maturity. (2-4; see also 1 John 1:8)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read James 3:1-12. *Tongue control* is important. It is an essential part and indicator of your spiritual maturity. Make it a point to evaluate your own speech each day of this week and note what it tells you about your spiritual condition.

Tuesday. Controlled speech can enable you to accomplish things for God. Uncontrolled speech causes great damage. In the last 24 hours how many of your words were not under control? Do you see the potential, or actual damage from these words?

Wednesday. James makes it clear that even the most self-disciplined person cannot gain complete mastery over his speech on his own (see verses 7-8). Why is that? If you are not consciously relying on God to direct your speech, why not?

Thursday. While no believer on earth is perfect in this or other areas, controlled speech is essential. Not only is it a requirement for teaching and leadership (verse 1), it is an indicator of your overall spiritual maturity. Start memorizing Ephesians 4:29 for positive direction as you ask God for and rely on His strength to have real *tongue control*.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at *Wisdom—True or False?* from James 3:13-18. Read through this passage in preparation for our time together.