

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT**  
TAMING THE TONGUE  
James 3:1-12

The Christians James writes to were having problems with their mouth. The power of speech is one of the greatest powers God has given us. With the tongue, man can praise God, pray, preach the Word, and lead the lost to Christ. But with the same tongue he can tell lies that could ruin a man's reputation or break a person's heart. The ability to speak words is the ability to influence others and accomplish tremendous tasks, and yet we take this ability for granted.

**POWER OF THE TONGUE**

- ❖ **Power to Direct: Bit & Rudder**-With the bit and rudder, James presents two items that are small of themselves, yet exercises great power, just like the tongue. A small bit enables the rudder to control the horse, and a small rudder enables the captain of a ship to steer the huge ship. The tongue is a small member in the body, and yet it has the power to accomplish great things. Sin on the inside and pressures on the outside are seeking to get control of the tongue. **Psalm 141:3**
  
- ❖ **Power to Destroy: Fire & Animal**-Our words can start fires. A fire can begin with a small spark but can go to destroy a city. Fiery words can destroy a home, a Sunday School class, a church, and friendships.
  
- ❖ **Power to Delight: Fountain & Tree**-The fountain provides the cool water that man needs to stay alive. Water is life giving, and our words can give life. Water also cleanses. Our words can help to shelter and encourage a weary traveler and can help to feed a hungry soul. **Proverbs 18:4**

**TAMING THE TONGUE**

- Taming the tongue in the presence of your enemies
  - David-1 Samuel 18:8-15
  
- Taming the tongue with your temper
  - Moses-Numbers 20:1-12
  
- Taming the tongue with speaking prematurely
  - Samuel-1 Samuel 16:1-6
  
- Taming the tongue with negativism
  - Michal-2 Samuel 6:16-23
  
- Taming the tongue through forgiveness
  - Joseph-Genesis 50:15-21
  
- Taming the tongue when facing trials
  - Jesus-Luke 22:42