

TAMING FIRE: Words of Life

JAMES 3:1-12

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #TAMINGFIRE

Part 1: Careless Words Are A Liability, but Controlled Words Could Be Life.

1. Feel the Tongue's Power to _____ Life (1-4).
2. Surrender the Tongue's Power to _____ Control (7-8).

Part 2: Next Week...

*Only Heaven Can Replace
the Hell in Our Mouth!*

James 3:1-12 (ESV)

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

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1. **Read the quote below by Curtis Thomas.** Which of these common misuses of the tongue do you struggle with most often? How will you take steps to repent of that sin this week?
2. In James 3:1, why does James warn us about becoming a teacher? Does this only apply to formal teachers, those standing in a classroom or pulpit? In what areas of life are you a teacher?
3. James gives four examples of a small thing controlling or overpowering something large. What are they, and how do these concepts make us think about the power of the tongue?
4. What are some biblical examples of an untamed tongue? Try to name several from scripture (Proverbs 12:18-19, 13:3, 16:27, 17:7, 18:8, 25:18, Matthew 7:15).

Quote for the Week. . .

by Curtis Thomas



“Some of the most common misuses of our tongues are: 1. Gossiping about fellow members. 2. Criticizing a sermon. 3. Running the pastor down. 4. Passing along matters which should be kept confidential. 5. Constantly questioning the leadership’s methods and motives. 6. Setting two members against each other. 7. Talking about dirty and immoral issues. 8. Making subtle, negative references about others. 9. Talking of matters about which we are uninformed. 10. Making disparaging remarks to others. 11. Bragging about our accomplishments and acts of service. 12. Encouraging church disharmony.”