

**The Book of James**  
**James 3:7-12**  
**T.A.G. Resource**

“Don’t just take our word for it, but see it in our actions” is the way many of us close our prayers. Sometimes the actions we must take are choosing not to say something mean-spirited. We love God, yet we are so quick to speak ill of others. Our love of God should prompt our silence. Allowing the Spirit to tame our tongue is wise, indeed.

**Topic:**

Since self-reliance fails to master our speech, what does daily reliance on the Holy Spirit look like when it comes to how we speak?

James points out the contradiction of praising God while speaking poorly of people made in His image. How should the truth that every person carries the image of God change the way you speak about political opponents, difficult coworkers, or people who irritate you?

What does inconsistency in our speech reveal about the condition of our heart?

James redefines wisdom not by how much someone knows or how persuasively they talk, but by a lifestyle marked by gentleness. How does the world's definition of a “wise” or “successful” leader differ from James’s definition?

**Association:**

James notes that while humanity can tame wild animals, no human can tame the tongue on their own. In what specific situations (e.g., under stress, online, around family, in traffic) do you find it hardest to control your words?

Jesus and James both teach that a spring cannot produce both fresh and bitter water. When sharp, critical, or deceptive words slip out, what hidden attitudes or motives might be bubbling up beneath the surface?

**Guidance:**

What routines or spiritual disciplines help keep the “source” (your mind and heart) clear of bitterness and how have you best grown in those disciplines?

Meekness or gentleness is described as “power under control.” Where in your life this week can you choose quiet, humble action over trying to prove yourself or win an argument?

**Cross references:** Verses 7-8      Genesis 1:26–28: Psalm 140:3: Romans 3:13–14  
Verses 9-10      Genesis 1:27: Proverbs 18:21: Matthew 15:11  
Verses 11-12      Matthew 7:16–18: Matthew 12:34:

Pray with and for each other.