

Alderwood Community Church
May 20, 2018

Controlling Your Tongue
James: A Faith that Works – Part 6
James 3:1-12
(Page 1197-1198 or 1218)

Big Idea: Don't underestimate the power of your tongue!

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue." **Proverbs 18:21**

1. Your tongue has the power to _____ / _____ your life and the lives of others. (vv. **1-5a**) (**Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 16:24**)

2. Your tongue has the power to _____ your life and the lives of others. (vv. **5b-12**) (**Proverbs 12:18, 15:4, 26:28**)

How can we gain control/mastery of our tongue?

1. _____ God for help.

(a) _____ daily (**Psalm 51:10, 141:3-4**)

(b) _____ on God's Word daily (**Romans 6:12-13, 12:1-2**)

2. _____ others daily

(a) Express praise to God (**Psalm 147:1**)

(b) Express _____, _____ and truth to others.
(**Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6; Hebrews 10:24-25**)

3. _____ choose your words

Pause...think before you speak and before you click 'send'.

Sermon Questions:

James 3:1-12

1. Why does James give such a stern warning to those who would be teachers? How does this relate to his instruction about the tongue in the verses that follow?

2. James says that the person who controls their tongue is perfect or mature. Why is one's ability to control their tongue a realistic measure of maturity?
3. James uses several word pictures to describe the tongue and its influence. What do you learn about the tongue from these illustrations?

Horse's bit

Ship's rudder

Fire

4. In **Genesis 1:24-28** God gave humankind the authority to rule over creation. James confirms this in **James 3:7**. If we can tame animals, why can't we control and tame our tongues (**James 3:8**)?
5. James uses the illustration of fresh and salt water coming from the same spring (**3:9-12**). What happens to water if both fresh and salt, or pure and polluted, flows from the same source?

What happens when “pure” and “polluted” words both flow from our mouths?

6. Share a time with the group when you said something loving to another person. How did they react? How did you feel during and after the conversation?

Share a time when you said something damaging or cruel to another person. How did they react? How did you feel during and after the conversation?

7. Talk about an insight from **James 3:1-12** that you want to take to heart. What do you specifically need to grow into the “perfect/mature” person (v.2) God wants you to be? Write down an action plan that will help you grow.