

13. I resolve to never grumble, knowing that the Judge is at the door.

“Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door” (James 5:9).

14. I resolve to never allow anything but total integrity in my speech.

“But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your ‘yes’ be yes and your ‘no’ be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation” (James 5:12).

15. I resolve to speak to God in prayer whenever I suffer.

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray” (James 5:13).

16. I resolve to sing praises to God whenever I am cheerful.

“Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise” (James 5:13).

17. I resolve to ask for the prayers of others when I am sick.

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord” (James 5:14).

18. I resolve to confess it whenever I have failed.

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another” (James 5:16).

19. I resolve to pray for one another when I am together with others in need.

“Pray for one another, that you may be healed” (James 5:16).

20. I resolve to speak words of restoration when I see another wander.

“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:19–20).

- Sinclair Ferguson

The Tell-Tale Tongue

James 3:1-12

It is hard to tame our tongues because they tell the tale of our hearts. Therefore, we must resolve in our hearts to speak what is right, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Mt 12:34; Lk 6:45).

- I. Teachers have _____ in the use of their tongues (1-2).
- II. Influencers enjoy _____ in the use of their tongues (3-5a).
- III. Controllers face _____ in the use of their tongues (5-8).
- IV. Speakers suffer _____ in the use of their tongues (9-12).

1. *I resolve to ask God for wisdom to speak and to do so with a single mind.*

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. . . . in faith with no doubting. . . . For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything . . . he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:5–8).

2. *I resolve to boast only in my exaltation in Christ or my humiliation in the world.*

“Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away” (James 1:9–10).

3. *I resolve to set a watch over my mouth.*

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one” (James 1:13).

4. *I resolve to be constantly quick to hear, slow to speak.*

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger” (James 1:19).

5. *I resolve to learn the gospel way of speaking to the poor and the rich.*

“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ while you say to the poor man, ‘You stand over there,’ or, ‘Sit down at my feet,’ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?” (James 2:1–4).

6. *I resolve to speak in the consciousness of the final judgment.*

“So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty” (James 2:12).

7. *I resolve to never stand on anyone’s face with words that demean, despise, or cause despair.*

“If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?” (James 2:15–16).

8. *I resolve to never claim a reality I do not experience.*

“If you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth” (James 3:14).

9. *I resolve to resist quarrelsome words as marks of a bad heart.*

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?” (James 4:1).

10. *I resolve to never speak evil of another.*

“Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge” (James 4:11).

11. *I resolve to never boast in what I will accomplish.*

“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’ — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes” (James 4:13).

12. *I resolve to always speak as one who is subject to the providences of God.*

“Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that’” (James 4:15).