

A circular graphic is centered on a white background. The top half of the circle is a light gray gradient. The bottom half shows a close-up of ocean waves with white foam. The word "JAMES" is written in a large, bold, teal-colored sans-serif font across the middle of the circle, overlapping both the gray and the wave sections.

JAMES

a faith that works

James 3:1-12

“The Taming of the Tongue”

The main point of James 3:1-12 is that our tongue is a powerful tool for good or evil.

Or stated another way,

“We need to discipline our words to reflect our new identity in Jesus Christ.”

The way we use our tongues makes us more strictly accountable to God (3:1-2).

- The privilege of teaching spiritual truth carries the highest level of responsibility (3:1).
- No one is exempt from stumbling when it comes to Christian character (3:2a).
- The proper control of the tongue is a mark of a mature Christian (3:2b).

**The way we use our tongues demonstrates
whether Christ or sin is in control of our lives (3:3-6).**

- We often exert control over large objects by the use of smaller objects (3:3-4).
- The tongue, though small, wields great power (3:5).
- The tongue, when uncontrolled, is destructive beyond measure (3:6).

**The way we use our tongues is a
measure of our personal spiritual discipline (3:7-8).**

- People have demonstrated great ability in taming wildlife (3:7).
- People have demonstrated a great inability to tame the human tongue (3:8).

**The way we use our tongues reveals
the inner attitudes of our hearts (3:9-12).**

- The misuse of our tongues displays the duplicity in our hearts (3:9-10a).
- God despises our hypocritical actions (3:10b).
- The inconsistent use of our tongues points to a deeply rooted spiritual need (3:11-12).

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identity in Jesus Christ.”**

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Pittsford, NY (6/12/22)