



James | Faith That Works - Week 5

“The Power of Your Words”

James 3:1-5a (NIV)

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ²We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

⁵Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.

1. Your words determine your direction.

Proverbs 18:21a

“The tongue has the power of life and death.”

Genesis 2:7 (ESV)

“then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”

⇒ **Your words don’t belong to you; they belong to God.**

James 3:5b-12 (NIV)

⁵Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

2. Your words have the power to build up or burn down.

God uses words to...	Satan uses words to...
Bless, restore, build, encourage, heal, glorify Him, shine light into darkness	Destroy and deceive

Ephesians 4: 29 (ESV), 2 Timothy 2:16-17 (ESV)

Types of Words That Destroy

- 1) Slander – Spreading lies, half-truths, or distorted information to damage someone's reputation.
- 2) Gossip – Sharing information about someone behind their back to hurt them or make ourselves look better, even if it's true.
- 3) Criticism – Using harsh, unkind, or complaining words to belittle or tear someone down.

Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

- Words can wound in an instant and often healing takes time.
- If you are not grounded in your identity in Christ, words will crush you.
- Words will leave scars, but you are not defined by your scars.
As followers of Christ, we are defined by His scars.

Practical Do's & Don'ts with Our Words	
DON'Ts	DOs
1. Don't use words as weapons (name calling, insults, threats) 2. Don't be harsh or overly critical. 3. Don't discipline your children with destructive words. 4. Don't threaten the security of your relationships.	1. Be an encourager. 2. Speak with gentleness and kindness. 3. Lead with gratitude, not criticism. 4. Speak blessings and pray over those you love.

Matthew 12:34b (ESV)

"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."



Upcoming Events:

- 10/19: 50+ Bingo
- 11/1: Membership Class

- 11/8: Men's Chili Cookout
- 11/13-15: High School Fall Retreat

Register Here:

