



http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%203:1-18&version=NKJV

## The tongue



Those who teach others about the word of God have a great responsibility before God. Such teachers have to be especially careful that their words agree with their actions. But it should be so with you too (vv1-2)!

Little things can have a great effect: the horse's bridle, the ship's rudder and a small fire. Our tongue is a small part of our body, but it has great influence and can do a lot of damage (vv3-6). No one in their own strength can tame the tongue (vv7-8), which shows itself as very inconsistent sometimes (vv9-12). To use your tongue properly, you need wisdom (v13). It is the ability to use the tongue in the right way and at the right time. James here distinguishes between worldly wisdom and wisdom from God and points out their characteristics (vv14-18). In the Lord Jesus you find all seven characteristics of wisdom from above, as listed in verse 17.



- 11. How can the tongue be set on fire? And: What does this mean?
- 12. Which four examples of opposite pairs does James use to point out that good and bad should not come out of the same mouth?
- 13. What are the characteristics of wisdom from God?



"Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips." (Psalm 141:3)

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	11. By hell (v6). This doesn't mean hell as a place, but th important tool of evil (satanic) powers. 12. A spring can'can't bear figs (v12), salty water and sweet water can't good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy (v17).
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	11. By hell (v6). This doesn't mean hell as a place, but the evil powers for which hell was prepared (Matthew 25:41). James wants to say that the tongue is an important tool of evil (satanic) powers. 12. A spring can't bring forth sweet and bitter water at the same time (v11), a fig tree can't bear olives (v12), a vine can't bear figs (v12), salty water and sweet water can't come from the same source (v12). 13. It is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy (v17).
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