

Becoming Mature in Christ

A Small, but Large Troublemaker

James 3:1-12

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Introduction:

- So far, we have covered two main characteristics:
 - Chapter 1 –
 - Chapter 2 –
- **James 3:1-12**
- **James 1:26-27**
- James gives us distinct pictures of the tongue:
 - The bit and the rudder:
 - Fire and a poisonous animal:
 - Spring of water and a tree:

1. Power to Direct:

- a. **James 3:1**
- b. Those who teach scripture will face a stricter judgement.
- c. **Matthew 18:6**
- d. **Matthew 23:1-32**
- e. This is why the job of an Elder is so serious.
- f. All Christians stumble – **James 3:2**
- g. The person who has discipline over their tongue, has control over his whole body.
 - 1. The Expert Horseman –
 - 2. The Experienced Boat Captain –
 - 3. The Mature Christian –
- h. Just like the bit and the rudder have the power to direct ... the words we speak have the power to affect the lives of those around us.
- i. **John 4**
- j. **Acts 2**

2. Power to Destroy:

- a. The Great Chicago Fire – October 8, 1871
- b. Our words can start fires, as well.
- c. One of the sorrows that Jesus had to bear while he was here, was the way His enemies spoke of Him.

- d. Even while on the cross, His enemies shouted lies and mocked Him.
- e. Time does not always correct the hurt caused by someone's words.
- f. For every word in Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, 125 people died.
 - 1. Think about that 125 people died for every single word.
- g. When you train an animal, you get a worker instead of a destroyer.
- h. When you control the power of fire, you generate energy.

3. Power to Delight:

- a. As water brings life to people, so words can also bring life.
- b. **Proverbs 18:21**
- c. If you and I are rooted deeply in the ways, principles, and morals of God, we will be healthy and strong.
- d. **Psalm 1:1-3**
- e. **Mark 1:35**
- f. **Luke 5:16**
- g. The problem is not the tongue; it is the heart.
- h. Twelve Words that can Transform Your Life:
 - 1. *Please and thank you* –
 - 2. *I'm Sorry* –
 - 3. *I love you* –
 - 4. *I'm praying for you* –