

PRACTICAL WISDOM

A STUDY OF THE
BOOK OF JAMES

‘FIRE’ PREVENTION—JAMES 3:1-12



James 3:

1 Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. 3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. 4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds,




James 3:

are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell.⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the



James 3:

human race.⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; *it is a restless evil and* full of deadly poison.⁹ With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;¹⁰ from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.¹¹ Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*?¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor *can* salt water produce fresh.

A photograph of water overflowing from a glass pitcher into a glass. The water is captured in mid-pour, creating a dynamic, bubbly splash. The background is a solid, muted green color. The entire scene is framed by a dark, textured border. Four small, circular metal fasteners are visible at the corners of the frame. Overlaid on the left side of the image is a white, cursive-style quote.

*Out of the
overflow
of the heart
the mouth
speaks.*

Matthew 12:34

THE POWER OF WORDS...

- Where does our mouth go wrong?
- Many times we forget it is what is in us!
- Jesus warned about the same things!
- As the body – soma...

TEACHERS (?) WARNED

- An area of great failure...
- Note: “all offend...any man”
- Offending in *logos*
- Perfect man?
- The heart/mouth connection...strong!

Bit



Rudder

EXAMPLES AND PICTURES

- Whole body (*soma*)
- Bridle in the mouth of horse
 - Control thru discomfort
 - Limits choices...
 - Changes 'directions'
 - Small effects large!

Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

James 3:5





Proverbs 10:

11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,
But the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

14 Wise men store up knowledge, But with the mouth
of the foolish, ruin is at hand.

32 The lips of the righteous bring forth what is
acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is
perverted.



Proverbs

11:9 With *his* mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

12:18 There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing. 19 Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying tongue is only for a moment.



Proverbs

15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.² The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly. ⁴ A soothing tongue is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.

18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

THINGS TAMED

- Untamed tongue = defiled body! (6)
 - End of the matter, fire of hell!
- Birds and beasts tamed!
- Unruly evil, deadly poison! (8)
- No one can tame it... only the Holy Spirit!

SAME SOURCE?

- Bless God, curse men?
 - These things should not be !!! (10)
- Fountains with sweet and bitter water?
- Fruit from a tree – olives AND figs???
- Return to the SOURCE!!!