



SPEAKING
THE TRUTH
IN LOVE

Introduction:

Why, when James was writing a letter to Christians who were under great pressure from poverty and persecution, did he take time to talk about the role of the tongue in their lives? Could it be that our words are far more important than we think?

Text: Ephesians 4:15

**Instead, speaking the truth in love,
we will in all things grow up into
him who is the Head, that is, Christ.**

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Text: James 1:19-20, 26

**My dear brothers, take note of this:
Everyone should be quick to listen,
slow to speak and slow to become
angry, for man's anger does not
bring about the righteous life that
God desires.**

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

James 1:19-20, 26

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Text: James 3:1-11

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways.

If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

Or 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.

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

Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

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The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body.

It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

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All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue.

It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.

Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.

My brothers, this should not be.

**Can both fresh water and salt
water flow from the same spring?**

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James 3:1-11

Words almost always have a greater **IMPACT** than we expect.

Words **REVEAL** who we really are.

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Proper control of our words begins
in our **HEARTS**, progresses to
our **MINDS**, and ends with our
TONGUES.

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A truly spiritual person will speak words that are:

TRUE and **ACCURATE.**

PURE and **WHOLESOME.**

CAREFULLY considered.

MERCIFUL.

HEALING.

LOVING.

Conclusion:

People who have a “problem with the tongue” almost always think they are misunderstood.

Could it be that they misunderstand their own heart?



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