

## Our Toxic Tongues

James 3:1-12\*

From his discourse on idle faith, James proceeded to discuss idle speech. The failure to bridle the tongue, mentioned earlier (1:26), is now expanded. As disturbing as those who have faith with no works are those Christians who substitute words for works. One's tongue should be controlled. Small though it is, the tongue is powerful and all too prone to perversion and pollution.

### The Power of our speech (3:1-5)

### The Perversion of our speech (3:6-8)

### The Pollution of our speech (3:9-12)

## "Tongue" in Proverbs

- [Prov 10:20](#) The [tongue](#) of the righteous is *as* choice silver, The heart of the wicked is *worth* little.
- [Prov 10:31](#) The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom, But the perverted [tongue](#) will be cut out.
- [Prov 12:18](#) There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the [tongue](#) of the wise brings healing.
- [Prov 12:19](#) Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying [tongue](#) is only for a moment.
- [Prov 15:2](#) The [tongue](#) of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.
- [Prov 15:4](#) A soothing [tongue](#) is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.
- [Prov 16:1](#) The plans of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the [tongue](#) is from the LORD.
- [Prov 17:4](#) An evildoer listens to wicked lips; A liar pays attention to a destructive [tongue](#).
- [Prov 18:21](#) Death and life are in the power of the [tongue](#), And those who love it will eat its fruit.
- [Prov 21:6](#) The acquisition of treasures by a lying [tongue](#) Is a fleeting vapor, the pursuit of death.
- [Prov 21:23](#) He who guards his mouth and his [tongue](#), Guards his soul from troubles.
- [Prov 25:15](#) By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, And a soft [tongue](#) breaks the bone.
- [Prov 25:23](#) The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting [tongue](#), an angry countenance.
- [Prov 26:28](#) A lying [tongue](#) hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.
- [Prov 28:23](#) He who rebukes a man will afterward find *more* favor Than he who flatters with the [tongue](#).
- [Prov 31:26](#) She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her [tongue](#).

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\* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.