

### Devotionals for James 3

**Monday:** Read James 3:1-12. Mark *tongue* and all its synonyms the same way. Go back to the previous chapters and do the same. What is the topic for this passage in Ch.3? Write it down in the margin of your Bible.

**Tuesday:** James has been showing believers the tests of true, living faith. In Ch.1 true faith endures trials/temptations, obedience to Scriptures; in Ch.2, by caring for others without favoritism and by a lifestyle of good works. Now in 3:1-14 living faith is shown in our speech. Look up the following verses to view a sample of how God views the tongue/mouth/speech: Psa.64:3, Prov.4:24, Col.3:8; Prov.15:4; Jer.9:3; 1Pet.3:10; Psa.37:30, 39:1; Eph.4:29. Pay special attention as to how the tongue/mouth are described. What do you learn?

**Wednesday:** In v.3,4 the tongue is compared to a horse's bit and a ship's rudder. What point is he making? Look at v.5. Consider the times you have spoken carelessly and the havoc it caused in your relationship(s). How much time do you consider your words BEFORE they are spoken? In light of how God views this matter of our speech, what needs to change?

**Thursday:** Read James 3:6. A sobering verse. He says the tongue IS a fire, not like a fire. The phrase 'world of iniquity' means system of evil. Look up Mark 7:20-23, Matt.12:34-37. List what you learn.

**Friday:** Read James 3:8. Who can control the tongue? What hope do we have? Read Gal.2:20. Read James 3:9-12. What do fig trees, fountains, and salt water teach about speech? What is God calling you to do in this area?

“I am more deadly than the screaming shell from the Howitzer. I win without killing. I tear down homes, break hearts, and wreck lives. I travel on the wings of the wind. No innocence is strong enough to intimidate me. No purity pure enough to daunt me. I have no regard for truth, no respect for justice, no mercy for the defenseless. My victims are as numerous as the sands of the sea, and often as innocent. I never forget and seldom forgive, and my name is gossip.” (Morgan Blake)