

SPEAK LIFE!
I'm more than a Conqueror – Part 3
James 3:1-12 (NIV)
CrossWord Christian Church
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“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”
Proverbs 18:21 (ESV)

“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.” James 3:2 (NIV)

I. WHY MUST I WATCH WHAT I SAY? 3 Reasons:

1. MY TONGUE DETERMINES WHERE I GO. (vs. 3-4)

"When we put bits in the mouths of horses ... we can turn the whole animal." (vs. 3)

"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." (vs. 4)

2. MY TONGUE CAN DESTROY WHAT I HAVE. (vs. 5-8)

(vs. 5) "Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. (vs. 6) The tongue is also a fire ..."

"... it sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell." (vs. 6b)

3. MY TONGUE REVEALS WHO I AM. (vs. 9-12) It's erratic!

Sometimes it (the tongue) praises our heavenly Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against men who are made like God. vs. 9 (TLB)

"Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be." (vs. 10)

"Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ... can a fig tree bear olives or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water." (vs. 11-12)

THE PROBLEM: I HAVE A HEART PROBLEM!

"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." Matthew 12:34b (NIV)

II. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

1. GET A NEW HEART.

"Rid yourself of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit!" Ezekiel 18:31a (NIV)

2. ASK GOD FOR HELP EVERYDAY.

*"Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips."
Psalm 141:3 (NIV)*

3. THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK!!!

*"...Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."
James 1:19b (NIV)*

"What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words." Proverbs 18:21 (TEV)