

Steering Lessons

James 3:1-12

The power of the Tongue: understand it!

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June 8, 2008

- 1) Your words are **directing** your relationships (James 3:1-4)
 - a) Like a **bit**
 - b) Like a **rudder** - "Lose lips **sink ships**."
- 2) Your words may **destroy** your relationships – James 3:5-8
 - a) Like a roaring fire
 - i) A fire **starts** with a spark
 - ii) A fire **spreads** with a rush
 - b) Like a ravenous beast
 - i) With our words we **pounce** like predators
 - ii) With our words we **poison** like snakes
- 3) Your words can **delight** your relationships – James 3:9-12
 - a) Like a **refreshing** fountain
 - b) Like **reenergizing** fruit

The power of the tongue: Apply it!

- The **direction** of your relationships is decided by your words
- The **condition** of you relationship is decided by your words
- The **destiny** of your relationship is decided by your words
- Only a decision in your **heart** can control your words
 - Use helpful words – Pro 15:1; 25:11; 16:24
 - Refuse hurtful words – Pro 10:19; 14:1-3; 26:18-22

James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.