



# Taming the Tongue

Putting Faith to Work (part 7)  
James 3:1-12

## Teachers & the Tongue (vv.1-2)

## The Power of the Tongue (vv.3-6)

### Lying (Proverbs 12:22)

- Do you tend to lie or bend the truth?
 

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

### Gossip (Proverbs 17:9, 20:19)

- Do you tend to gossip?
 

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

- Would people say you are a safe person?
 

1	2	3	4	5	6
few people	some people			most people	

### Boasting (Proverbs 26:12, 27:1-2)

- Do you boast or subtly lift yourself up to make yourself look good?
 

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

### Speaking Crudely (Proverbs 4:24)

- Do you share off-colored jokes or say things that are questionable just to be funny or to get a rise out of people?
 

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

### Being quarrelsome (Proverbs 17:24, 26:21)

- Are you quarrelsome?
 

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

- If you are married, how would your spouse evaluate you?
 

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

### Talking too much (Proverbs 10:19, 17:27-28 , 21:23, Psalm 39:1)

- Do you talk too much?
 

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

- In meetings at work or in small groups with church, do you dominate the air time?
 

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

**Speaking too hastily** (Proverbs 13:3, 29:20)

- Do you speak too hastily? Do you say things too quickly without weighing your words?

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

**Speaking negatively about others** (Proverbs 11:12)

- Do you speak negatively about others in situations when you are not addressing how to help that person?

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

**Misusing Sarcasm** (Proverbs 26:18-19)

- Do you use sarcasm to tell people what you really think while candy-coating your arrows with a thin layer of humor?

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

**The Duplicity of the Tongue (vv.9-12)**

**Don't use God's name in vain** (Exodus 20:7)

- Do you use God's name in vain?

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

**Don't return insult for insult** (1 Peter 3:9)

- Do you return insult for insult toward those who have offended you?

1	2	3	4	5	6
often		sometimes			never

**The "Untamability" of the Tongue (vv.7-8)**

**How to tame the untamable tongue?**

- Walk in the Spirit
- Renew your mind through reading Proverbs
- Be quick to hear, by learning to ask good questions
- Be slow to speak

**The Healing Power of the Tongue**

**Words are like toothpaste. Once they are out, you cannot take them back. So use them carefully.**