

## **FAITH THAT WORKS**

### ***“The Careful Use Of Words”***

*James 3:1-12*

**Introduction:** James carries us from faith and our works to faith and our words. He is careful to say that faith not only produces the right works but also the right words. One of the evidences of true faith is found in the words we use. Our words reveal spiritual immaturity, as well as and spiritual maturity.

*“Death and life are in the **power of the tongue....”***  
*(Proverbs 18:21)*

#### **Warning to Those Who Use Words** *(3:1-2a)*

*“But I say to you  
that for every idle word men may speak,  
they will give account of it in the day of judgment.*

*For by your words you will be justified,  
and by your words you will be condemned.”*  
*(Matthew 12:36-37)*

#### **Illustrations for Those Who Use Words**

- The Directive Nature of the Tongue
  - A Horse’s Bridle *(3:2b-3)*
  - A Ship’s Rudder *(3:4)*
- The Destructive Nature of the Tongue
  - A Wild Fire *(3:5-6)*
  - A Wild Animal *(3:7-8)*
- The Deceptive Nature of the Tongue *(3:9-12)*

*“For out of the abundance of the heart  
the mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34)*

*“It is not the things that come into the person  
that defiles the person;  
but the things that come out of the person  
that defiles the person.” (Matthew 15:11)*

### **Help for Those Who Use Words**

- Let the Holy Spirit Hold the Bridle (3:3)
- Let the Holy Spirit Pilot the Ship (3:4)

*“And do not be drunk with wine,  
in which is dissipation (wasteful);  
but **be filled with the Spirit,  
speaking to one another...**” (Ephesians 5:18-19a)*

**Application:** If your words reveal the condition of your heart  
then what is the condition of your heart?