

## A little member

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### Introduction

1. James 3:1-12
2. The ability to talk can be a great blessing.
3. If we want to keep our lips from slips, five things we must observe
  - a. To whom we speak
  - b. Of whom we speak
  - c. How we speak
  - d. When we speak
  - e. Where we speak
4. What do we learn from this passage:

### II Discussion

1. Out of the same mouth comes blessing and cursing James 3:10
  - a. The beauty that can come forth from the tongue
    - i. We can confess Romans 10:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:10; Acts 8:37
    - ii. Our preaching or teaching of the Gospel Romans 10:13-17; 1 Corinthians 1:21; Colossians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15
    - iii. Our singing praises to God Ephesians 5:19; James 5:13; Hebrews 2:12; 13:13
    - iv. Our Prayers Romans 10:1; Matthew 6:9
    - v. Our comfort to others 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:14
    - vi. What we ought to say. James 4:13-15
  - b. The evil that can come forth from the tongue.
    - i. Profanity and swearing Ephesians 4:29; Matthew 5:33-37
    - ii. It speaks the condition of the heart Matthew 12:34-36
    - iii. Lying and false witness Proverbs 6:16-19; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:8-9; Revelation 21:8
    - iv. Shameful speaking Ephesians 5:12 Colossians 3:8
    - v. Jestings and foolish talking Ephesians 5:3-4
      1. Foolish talking is the kind of conversation one expected from the lips of a fool
      2. Jestings is in a bad sense of coarse jesting, buffoonery.
    - vi. Slander and back-biting Psalm 15:1-3; James 4:11
    - vii. Murmuring 1 Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:14
2. Ought not so to be James 3:10
  - a. The heart is the fountain the tongue the faucet through which flows the thoughts and feelings of the inner man. Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:11
  - b. Slow to speak should be the principle of life for the saint James 1:19
  - c. Pray Psalm 19:14
  - d. Always exercise self-control, even concerning what others say about you!
3. Obvious illustrations James 3:11-12
  - a. The fig tree
    - i. It does bear fruit after its kind Genesis 1:11

ii. Good heart out comes good things Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 12:34-36

iii. One test of religion is the use of the tongue James 1:26

b. The fountain is either bitter or sweet

### III Conclusion

1. The proper use of the tongue is very important, it will determine our destiny! James 1:26

2. With God's help we can do it James 4:7

3. Letting God control our lives is the way to change the heart

4. Why not let God's word change your heart right now!

Sources: Great Lessons from Hebrews and James by Andrew Connally; God's Good Gifts Sermons from James by Tom Holland; Denton Lectureship on Ephesians ed. by Dub McClish