



I. Background

- A. What is the key idea that James is trying to get across? James 1:22-24
 - *he says it in another way in James 2:26
 - *a reason why we should “do” is because of all the good that God gives (1:17-18)
- B. James is looking at Christians who find themselves content with just being Christians. These Christians are not the Christians that are used by God or who find God’s fullest plan for their life.
 - *James 2:10; 19
- C. What are some of the specific topics James has covered so far in “doing the word”?
 - James 1:27 & 2:1
 - *Do these apply to us as Christians today?

II. The Tongue

- A. The tongue is POWERFUL and can be used for the GOOD or BAD (**James 3:3, 4, 5**)

Question: What are the 3 examples given?

Read **James 3:6**. Do you believe that the tongue is that powerful?

Question: Has anyone ever said something negative to you or vice versa that still sticks today?

Question: Has anyone ever said something positive to you or vice versa that still sticks today?

- B. We are HYPOCRITES if we use our tongue for things that don’t honor God (**James 3:7-12**)

Question: What are other negative ways we can use our tongues/words?

Think about it: How would it make you feel if someone you loved used their lips to kiss someone else? How do you think God feels when you praise Him and then use those lips in ways that doesn’t glorify Him?

- C. If things come out that don’t honor God, it is a HEART issue (**James 3:14-15**)

- 1. We can’t use the excuse that something “slipped” because words expose our hearts
 - *giving birth...those negative/curse words have to come from somewhere

- 2. What should come from the mouths of those who truly love God? (**James 3:17-18**)

Putting it into practice

1. First, do I see the importance in diving into God’s Word to see how I can live more like Christ?
 - *Meditate on James 1:25
2. Look at the people on both sides of me and 1 other person in our youth group. Take a few minutes to write something positive about each of them on notecards and hand it to them after church.
3. Ask yourself, what is something specific that God is challenging me with and what am I going to do?