

WHERE THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

70 GRANS OF POWER: TAMING THE TONGOE FOR POSITIVE RESULTS

James 3:1-12



¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they sayis perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example.

Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.





• Small but powerful





- Small but powerful
- A source of destruction (fire)





- Small but powerful
- A source of destruction (fire)
- A constructive source (fountain)





- Small but powerful
- A source of destruction
- A constructive source
- An impossible challenge to "tame"

The tongue, though small, is an instrument (muscle) that possesses immense power for both evil and good.

God's desire is to have tongues that are tamed and used to build up rather than destroy.



THE TONGOE: INDICATOR OF HEALTH (PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL) James 3:2



SMALL BUT POWERFUL - WORD PICTURES FROM JAMES

James 3:3,4



• Horse Bit: controls a powerful animal





SMALL BUT POWERFUL - WORD PICTURES FROM JAMES

James 3:3,4

- Horse Bit: controls a powerful animal
- Ship Rudder: controls a large vessel





AN INSTRUMENT OF DESTRUCTION

James 3:5,6



• A devastating fire of destruction







AN INSTRUMENT OF DESTRUCTION

James 3:5,6



- A devastating fire of destruction
- Elusive and impossible to tame



AN INSTRUMENT OF DESTRUCTION

James 3:5,6



- A devastating fire of destruction
- Elusive and impossible to tame
- A source of praise, blessing and encouragement





James 3:7-12



What's going on inside?My tongue says a lot!



James 3:7-12



- What's going on inside?My tongue says a lot!
- Does my tongue "build up" or "burn down"?



James 3:7-12



- What's going on inside?My tongue says a lot!
- Does my tongue "build up" or "burn down"?
- Am I making progress "taming my tongue"?



James 3:7-12



- What's going on inside?My tongue says a lot!
- Does my tongue "build up" or "burn down"?
- Am I making progress "taming my tongue"?
- Is my tongue being used as a fountain of blessing?