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# WORDS: LIFE OR DEATH

## Amazing Facts

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[ TITLE SLIDE: ] Amazing Facts about WORDS and our TONGUE



[ James 3.1-2 NKJV ]

*1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things.*

*If anyone does not stumble in word, **he is a perfect man**, able also to bridle the whole body.*

- If person doesn't stumble in his/her words... They are Perfect
- AND... He is able to Bridle / Control / Direct his whole body

**- If you can get your tongue fixed.... You can get your life fixed**

## FOUR AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE TONGUE From James 3



#1

# **TONGUE IS DISPROPORTIONATELY POWERFUL**



[ James 3.3-5 NKJV ]

*3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. (again, you fix the tongue you fix the body)*

*4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!*

- Could say "tongue is powerful..." not the Amazing fact

it's DISPROPORTIONATELY powerful

- It's very Small... **It's affect is very large**

### James gives us other 3 analogies....

#### - Analogy #1

- BIT in a horses mouth
- Small piece of metal... CONTROLS the Strength & Direction of horse
- YOUR tongue can control YOUR Strength and Direction
- A person who speaks w/o measuring his words is like a horse w/o bridle

[ James 1.26 NKJV ]

*If anyone among you thinks he is religious, ('religious' here means SERVING GOD)*

*If anyone among you thinks he is serving God, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion (service of God) is useless.*

#### - Analogy #2

- RUDDER of a Ship
- Huge Ship with a small Rudder... but Rudder TURNS the ship
- In Storm you have to face that ship in right direction or it will capsize
- Many people capsize because their Tongue does not face them in right direction
- Even in good weather... Good times in life you can put life on rocks

#### - Analogy #3

- SMALL FLAME starting forest fire



Yellowstone National Park 1988



About 1.2 million acres burned

- Carelessness of man was one of the causes for that fire

- James is saying...  
even though that tongue is small it can do GREAT destruction
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## #2 **TONGUE IS INHERENTLY EVIL**

 [ James 3.6 NLT ]

*6 And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.*

End of verse 8

*...It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.*

- The Amazing fact is that our tongue is INHERENTLY Evil....  
**We were born with evil tongue**
- We don't have to teach our children to be rude or say mean things...
- Say it another way... *The default setting of the tongue is to destroy*  
Unless we change the default setting... we are going to do more damage

- **Think back to Jr. High....**

- What ever physical difference you had, it was TALKED about!!
- Because the tongue is inherently evil

.....Tongue is Inherently Evil

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## #3 **TONGUE IS HUMANLY UNTAMABLE**

 [ James 3.7-8 NKJV ]

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

- Bad news... No person can tame the tongue
- Good news... It IS Divinely tamable
  - The one who made it can tame it



[ Exodus 4.10-12 NKJV ]

Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; (I have a problem with my tongue BEFORE I meet You and AFTER meet You) but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

11 So the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore, go, (here is some good news) and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

### Think about this.....

When Holy Spirit (whom the Father sent) appeared

The FIRST thing Holy Spirit did when He entered those 120 people...  
.....was change their tongues

**The ONLY way you can change your tongue is SUBMIT it to Holy Spirit**

### Isn't it amazing there's much controversy around THIS GIFT of Holy Spirit

- Who do you think did that???
- Bible says "tongue is set on fire by hell itself"  
Hell wants to occupy your mouth
- satan is trying to get you to turn your mouth against yourself and destroy yourself
- Every time you speak you are either agreeing with **Life and God** -OR-

## The Tongue is Humanly Untamable

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### #4 **TONGUE IS CONTRASTINGLY PRODUCTIVE**



[ James 3.9-12 NKJV ]

9 With it (the tongue) we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude (or likeness) of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed *blessing and cursing*. **My brethren, these things ought not to be so.** 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

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- We could have said - the **Tongue is Powerful** Not amazing  
It's DISPROPORTIONATELY Powerful
  - We could say - the **Tongue is Evil**  
It's INHERENTLY Evil
  - We could say - the **Tongue is Untamable**  
It's HUMANLY untamable
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We could say - the **Tongue is Productive** ... It can produce Life -or- Death  
It's CONTRASTINGLY Productive

..... it can produce Good and Bad!

- James is saying here... *'Nature can't even do what the Tongue can do'*
  - Fig tree can't do Olives
  - Grapevine can't do Figs
  - Can have good water and bad come out same opening

- **BUT the Tongue can Bless AND Curse**

With it we can bless God / curse people in His likeness

..... this shouldn't be!

### James 3.1-12 MESSAGE

*1-2 Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.*

*3-5 A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—**or** destroy it!*

*5-6 It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.*

*7-10 This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!*

*10-12 My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?*

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### Here is some GOOD News!

- The Tongue can do lot of damage.... but it can do GOOD!
- It can curse..... but it can BLESS!
  - You can BLESS your MARRIAGE / FINANCES / FAMILY / JOB
  - Great example are my Parents..!

..... this church eats fruit that my Parents planted

## Life and Death are in the Power of the Tongue



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PRAYER.....

- Ask Holy Spirit... 'What are You saying to me??'
- We want to pray for you! Don't need to be member of FOC