

My Bible Study: The Epistle of James
Chapter 3

Chapter Title & Key Verse(s)	Person(s) in this passage	Significant Truth	Cross References	Chapter Summary	Application to Me	Promises to Claim
<p>Faith: It Bridles the Tongue, It Produces Divine Wisdom</p> <p>“But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.” —James 3:8-10</p> <p>“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in meekness of wisdom.” —James 3:13</p> <p>“For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.” —James 3:16-17</p>	<p><i>Who is speaking; about whom; who is acting?</i></p> <p>James talks to those who have the responsibility of teaching. He exhorts his readers to bridle their tongue. He also differentiates between earthly and heavenly wisdom.</p>	<p><i>What does this passage teach me about the Lord Jesus Christ?</i></p> <p>The life of Christ is a true example of how the evil influences of a tongue are stopped when it is bridled and brought into subjugation. Christ is our example showing the practical implications of divine wisdom in a person’s life.</p>	<p>¹Matthew 23:8, Romans 2:21 ²Psalms 34:13, Matthew 12:34-37 ³Psalms 32:9 ⁵Proverbs 12:18, 15:2, Psalms 12:3, 73:8 ⁶Proverbs 16:27, Matthew 12:36, Matthew 15:11, 18, John 7:18 ⁸Psalms 140:3 ⁹Genesis 1:26, 5:1, 9:6, Luke 6:28 ¹²Matthew 7:16-20 ¹⁴Romans 13:13, 2:17 ¹⁵Philippians 1:16 ¹⁵Philippians 3:19 ¹⁶1 Corinthians 3:3 ¹⁷1 Corinthians 2:6-7, Romans 12:9, 1 John 3:3, 1 Timothy 3:3, 1 Peter 1:22 ¹⁸Proverbs 11:18</p>	<p>James conveys the importance of the responsibility the teachers have not only for themselves but for all they influence. To this end, he makes known the tongue’s power and influence for good or bad are out of proportion to its size. It is notoriously inconsistent and its propensity is to speak evil. In the second half of the chapter, James discusses the contrast between earthly and divine wisdom. As a teacher, we must practice what we teach. If we are motivated by selfish ambition, we will always “lie against the truth.” He ends this passage with the description of practical, moral wisdom.</p>	<p><i>Does this passage portray any sin for me to confess? Any command or instructions to obey/follow?</i></p> <p>Through God’s help, I can bridle my tongue by being cognizant of what I am saying—for my words can influence others whether in good or bad.</p> <p>Faith in Jesus Christ lifts up the life of Christ as a mirror to show how bridling a tongue and obtaining divine wisdom can bring about good conduct and influence others to the joys of a Christian life.</p>	<p>Divine wisdom has a practical application in my life in that, it will display good conduct that is meek, not self-seeking, willing to yield, peaceable, gentle, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and hypocrisy.</p>