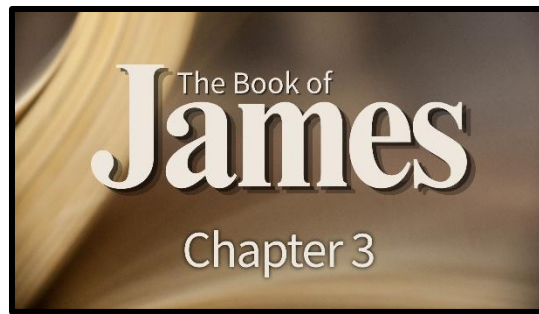




Pekin First Nazarene August 23, 2026
Pastor Gordon Barrick

“Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.” James 1:26 (NIV)

- When the Bible speaks about the tongue, the lips or the mouth, it is referring to the gift of speech.

James knew what his elder brother JESUS had to say, *“For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of” Matthew 12:34 (NIV)*; or you may have learned the (KJV), *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”*.

James 3:1-12

Think about this as we open our mouths for examination, ⁵*“God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say, we have fellowship with Him, and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin.” 1 John 1:5-7 (NIV)*

Let's unpack James 3:1-12 together.

I. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

- A. The tongue can give direction.
- B. The tongue can cause destruction.
- C. The tongue can bring delight.

1. *Praise.* **Psalm 103**

2. *Pray.* **Luke 11**

3. *Proclaim.* **Romans 1:14-16**

4. *Provoke.* **Hebrews 10:24-25**

II. THE PROBLEMS OF THE TONGUE

- A. The tongue is untamable.
- B. The tongue is inconsistent.
- C. The tongue is contrary to nature.

III. SOME SPIRITUAL PRACTICES THAT OFFER REMEDY

No human being can tame the tongue, BUT GOD CAN!

- A. CONFESSIONremorse, apology, restitution
 - *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* **1 John 1:9** (NIV)
- B. APPLICATION of biblical truth
 - *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* **James 1:22** (NIV)
 - *"Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; watch over the door of my lips,"* **Psalms 141:3** (NIV)
 - *"May these words of my mouth, and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, My Rock and my Redeemer"* **Psalms 19:14** (NIV) is not just a beautiful benediction, but a surrender.
 - ²⁹*"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit..."* **Ephesians 4:29-30** (NIV)
- C. BE FILLED with the Spirit. **Ephesians 5:19-20** (NIV)
 - The Greek literally means "be being filled" with the Spirit in response to our surrender, God will cleanse our hearts of all that is anti-God, of all that is anti-Bible and fill our hearts with His Spirit.....And this is a continuing experience.
 - Note the impact of being filled, *"speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord., always giving thanks to God, the Father."*

Some questions to consider as we remember that Dr. Jesus said, *"the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."* **Matthew 12:34** (NIV)

- * What do I need to confess to God?
- * Do I need to apologize for what I said?
- * Am I being filled with the Spirit?