



## James 3.1-12

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.



We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.



But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And 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.

People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil,



full of deadly poison. Sometimes it  
praises our Lord and Father, and  
sometimes it curses those who have  
been made in the image of God. And  
so blessing and cursing come pouring  
out of the same mouth. Surely, my  
brothers and sisters, this is not right!



Does a spring of water bubble out with  
both fresh water and bitter water?  
Does a fig tree produce olives, or a  
grapevine produce figs? No, and you  
can't draw fresh water from a salty  
spring.



Words are things. You must be careful, careful about calling people out of their names, using racial pejoratives and sexual pejoratives and all that ignorance. Don't do that. Someday we'll be able to measure the power of words. I think they are things. They get on the walls. They get in your wallpaper. They get in your rugs, in your upholstery, and your clothes, and finally into you.



**Maya Angelou**



People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. v7-8



Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? v11

Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? v12



# Five sharp-tongued experts



1. The **BANTER** – I was only joking...
2. The **DUMPER** – I feel I have to tell you...
3. The **SPIRITUAL** – just for prayer
4. The **SELF-AWARE** – sorry, but it's the way I am
5. The **I'VE-NO-EXCUSE-BUT-HERE-IT-COMES-ANYWAY** – I don't mean to be mean but...

The tongue can bring death or life;  
those who love to talk will reap the  
consequences. Proverbs 18.21



Words can be medicines; they can also be poisons. Words can heal; they can also kill... It all depends on how, when and where they are used and against whom! Let us not abuse our words. It's a misuse of the tongue!

*Israelmore Ayivor*