

Grace Bible Chapel
Grace Women's Study – Lesson 12
Tuesday, January 13, 2026
James 3:1-6

Introduction: Continuing with the theme introduced for the book of James being in the midst of trials and tribulation understanding the **difference that is to be seen by those who are only hearers of the Word as opposed to those who are transformed by God (new hearts, new eyes, new nature) and are doers of the Word not merely hearers in the midst of our circumstances.** James continues to declare how we are to walk in this life, what our behavior is to be, and how our speech (tongue) can so easily be used for evil within the body of Christ. It shows where our heart is. We are none “perfect”, but James by the Holy Spirit calls us all to be aware of the danger that the tongue is for the believer and especially for those who are teachers (spiritual leaders).

We come to **James 3 verses 1-6** where initially those who teach or lead in the understanding of scripture are held to a high standard understanding there is a stricter judgment for those who teach (not to discourage from teaching, but as a warning that our testimony before others is understood by what we declare. .

James 3:1-2 - Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, **knowing** that as such we will incur a **stricter judgment (also translated as greater condemnation)**. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says (**word**), he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.. (1 Timothy 4:6, 10-12, 16; Titus 2:1-12; Galatians 5:20; Luke 11:42, 45, 52; Matthew 7:15; Galatians 1:7; Romans 16:17-18; James 1:19;)

Teachers are held to a stricter judgment.

Why teachers are held to stricter judgment – they influence others privately but also more importantly publicly

How do teachers stumble?

What do teachers do to come under condemnation?

James 3:3-4 v3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths **so that they will obey us**, we direct their entire body as well. 4 Look at the **ships also**, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, **are still directed by a very small rudder** wherever the inclination of the pilot desires (James 3:2; 2 Timothy 2:15-17a; Psalm 5:9; Colossians 3:8-9; Ephesians 4:30-32, 1 Peter 2:1)

Warning given regarding how powerful the tongue is.

James 3:5-6– v5 So also the **tongue is a small part of the body**, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a **forest is set aflame by such a small fire!** **6** And **the tongue is a fire**, the very world of iniquity; **the tongue** is set among our members as that **which defiles the entire body**, and sets on fire the course (**nature**) of our life, and is set on fire by hell (**Ghenna – burning trash heap that pollutes/corrupts the air all around it**) so is the tongue that can corrupt the course of our lives (the whole sphere of our influence). (Proverbs 26:18-19; Proverbs 52:2; Proverbs 10:19-20, Proverbs 18:21; Galatians 5:22-23)

We will be known by our words, they will testify to where our heart is. **We are to guard ourselves and be discerning** concerning the speech and actions of others especially teachers/spiritual leaders. **Be Wary, be on guard!**