

Questions

1. What does it mean for a believer in Jesus Christ to be double-minded? In what ways do you see struggle with conflicts between your belief and practice?
2. How does James 3:1 relate to 3:2-12? What are some practical ways that teachers of God's Word should respond to the warning that they "will be judged with greater strictness"?
3. Do you ever get the sense that you are talking too much? How can you learn to be more measured with your speech?
4. James 3:2 says "...we all stumble in many ways..." This could mean that we have multiple failures and/or that we fail in multiple ways. How do we guard against reading that verse with a sense of resignation, as if it's pointless to battle against sin?
5. What does James 3:6 say about the source of our sinful speech? Why do we need to hear this? Ask God to help you remember this truth the next time you are about to speak in an evil way.
6. Did this study cause you to remember words you said that you regret because of how they hurt another person? Have you confessed that sin to God and have you confessed your sin to the person?
7. What are some steps you should take to put off evil speech and put on words that bless God and build up others?

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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The Tongue is a Fire

James 3:1-12

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James 3:1-12 teaches that control of our speech IS a difficult challenge, marked by multiple failures, but is still something believers in Jesus Christ must pursue.

James boils much of our battle with sin down to our propensity to be double-minded (1:8).

The relation of James 3:1 to the rest of this section

Sinful speech is another form of the double-mindedness that God's Word condemns. These things ought not be so (3:7-12).

James 3:2 is not encouraging a sense of helplessness about our sin, nor is it saying we must become perfect in this life.

Is there hope? (3:2, 10)

Sinful speech has the power to defile our own body, to harm others, to set a damaging course for life, and to cause us to speak on Satan's behalf (3:3-6).