

A CONTROLLED TONGUE

JAMES 3:1-12

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: The Holy Spirit teaches you, by faith and His Word, to have a controlled tongue. Otherwise, you may do damage to yourself and others.

HELPS QUALIFY TEACHERS. Godly teachers are humble people. They are well aware that when they speak they represent God, and they are sharing the very words of God. They will be held accountable to God for each word their tongue speaks. (**James 3:1, 2, fn 3:1, fn 3:2, 3, II Timothy 2:23-26, fn 2:23-26, Matthew 15:11, fn 15:11, James 4:10, fn 4:10, Matthew 12:34-37, fn 12:34-36, I Peter 4:11**) *Why is it necessary for you to have humility in order to have a controlled tongue and be a godly teacher?*

DOES NO DAMAGE. The immensity of life's precious eternal value is well perceived by those with a controlled tongue. Your cultivation of gracious speech begins not with selfish ambition to rule, crush, and dominate your world but with winsome words coming from your heart surrendered to Christ. (**James 3:3-8, fn 3:6, fn 3:8, Proverbs 26:4, 20-28, fn 26:20, Proverbs 17:27, 28, fn 17:27, 28, Colossians 4:5, 6, fn 4:6, Ephesians 4:15, fn 4:15 Ephesians 4:25-32, fn 4:28-32**) *Why must you be controlled by the Holy Spirit to control your tongue?*

HAS ITS SOURCE. Your words reveal what you are treasuring in your heart. Duplicitous speech reveals a heart divided about who is controlling your life. Allowing the Holy Spirit to control your tongue, demonstrates that Jesus is Lord of your life. (**James 3:9-12, fn 3:9-12, Galatians 5:16-26, fn 5:17, Luke 6:43-45, fn 6:45, John 14:15-21, fn 14:17ff**) *Why is it important to daily meditate on God and His Word in order to have a controlled tongue?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord? Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

