

# Consecrated Tongues

Part 1

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James 3:1-8

# James 1:18 Review

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<sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

By Grace:

1. God willed to for us to be saved before we were willing to be saved
2. God brought us to life through the gospel message
3. He set us apart to be consecrated to Him for worship

The grace of God is a package deal, beginning with His sovereign election and effectual calling, and continuing with His power to set us apart and transform our lives. All moral imperatives for the Christian life are rooted in this grace.

## Main Idea

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By His grace, believers in Christ are granted full forgiveness for all sins and are set apart in order to worship Him with all of our lives, including our speech.

If our lives are consecrated to Him, our tongues will be also.

## James 3:1-4

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<sup>1</sup> Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways.

If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. <sup>3</sup> Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. <sup>4</sup> 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 3:5-8

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<sup>5</sup> 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! <sup>6</sup> 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 of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

<sup>7</sup> For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. <sup>8</sup> But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.

## Consecrated Tongues

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  - a) A warning against hypocrisy (vs 1-2a, 13)

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## James 1:26

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.



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James 2:12

“So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.”

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## James 3:1-2a

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## James 3:13

<sup>13</sup> **Who is wise** and understanding among you? **By his good conduct let him show his works** in the meekness of wisdom.

# Matthew 7:1-5

“<sup>1</sup> Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For **with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged**, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.

<sup>3</sup> **Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?** <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye?

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Consecrating our speech to the Lord requires:

- That we show humility in our speech (vs 1-4)
  - a) A warning against hypocrisy (vs 1-2a, 13)
  - b) A sobering recognition (vs 2b – 4)

<sup>2b</sup> **If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man**, able to bridle the whole body as well. <sup>3</sup> Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. <sup>4</sup> 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 3:7-8

<sup>7</sup> For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.

<sup>8</sup> But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.



James wants us to know that our tongues reveal a problem we cannot fix on our own in order that we might run to Jesus.

Because of Him we can be forgiven.

Because of Him we can change.

Apart from Him, we have no real, lasting hope.

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Consecrating our speech to the Lord requires:

1. That we show humility in our speech (vs 1-4)
2. That we're honest about the impact of our words (vs 5-8)

<sup>3</sup> Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> **So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.**

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Consecrating our speech to the Lord requires:

1. That we show humility in our speech (vs 1-4)
2. That we're honest about the impact of our words (vs 5-8)
  - a) The power of the tongue is disproportionate to its size

**<sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.**

Proverbs 18:21

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue...”

## How is “life in the power of the tongue” ?

- The tongue of the wise brings healing (Proverbs 12:18)
- A gentle word turns away wrath (Proverbs 15:1-2)
- The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life (Proverbs 16:21)
- Sweetness of speech promotes instruction & is persuasive (Proverbs 16:23)
- Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul... (Proverbs 16:24)
- Encourage one another and build one another up (1 Thess 5:11)
- Say only that which is useful for edifying others (Ephesians 4:29)

Your words have the power of life in that they have the capacity to instruct, encourage, affirm, comfort, calm, restore, and build others up.

## How is “life in the power of the tongue” ?

<sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!...”

... faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:14-17)

Your words have the power of life in that they have the capacity to bring the soul-saving and life-transforming message of the gospel.

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Consecrating our speech to the Lord requires:

1. That we show humility in our speech (vs 1-4)
2. That we're honest about the impact of our words (vs 5-8)
  - a) The power of the tongue is disproportionate to its size
  - b) The tongue is capable of doing great harm

<sup>5</sup> 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! <sup>6</sup> 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 of our life, and is set on fire by hell.



# Why do we need to recognize the impact of our speech?

- When we downplay the impact of our words, we deny what God says about the seriousness of our speech.
- When we downplay the impact of our words, we fail to take responsibility and sufficiently repent
- When we suggest that someone is too sensitive, we imply that someone else is responsible for being harmed by my harmful words.

Recognizing the impact of our speech should drive us to Christ for mercy because of the harm or potential harm we've done.

It should also cause us to think soberly about using our words for His glory and the benefit of others going forward.

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James 3:1-8