



# A STUDY ON JAMES 3

AN EXPOSITORY STUDY  
ON JAMES 3:1-12

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# JAMES 3:1-12

A STUDY ON THE GIFT OF TEACHING, THE  
TONGUE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN OUR  
LIVES



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# HELLO!!

SO HAPPY YOU'RE  
HERE!

Welcome to the Expository Study of James 3 where we will take time to look at the Gift of Teaching but spend most of our time learning about The Tongue and how we are to use it to honour God.

More often than not, we have used our tongues to speak death rather than speak life; to curse people instead of bless them, and the irony is, we aren't even bothered! We have become comfortable to the point we are no longer intentional about keeping a guard over our lips but speaking as we please.

In this study, we will take time and unpack what James wrote about the tongue, connecting it with other scriptures with the aim of learning how to use our tongues to honour both God and man.

*Let's Begin!*



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# GOALS

## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

During this study, you will be equipped to:



### UNDERSTAND THE GIFT OF TEACHING.

Know what the Gift of Teaching is all about and get to know whether or not you have this gifting/calling on your life.



### UNDERSTAND THE ROLE AND POWER OF THE TONGUE.

Everything has a purpose including our tongues. We will take time to explore what the role of the tongue is and how to use it as was intended



### LEARN HOW TO USE THE TONGUE TO HONOUR GOD.

With the insights drawn from James 3, we will provide you with practical tools to help you learn how to use your tongue for God's glory.

# RESOURCES

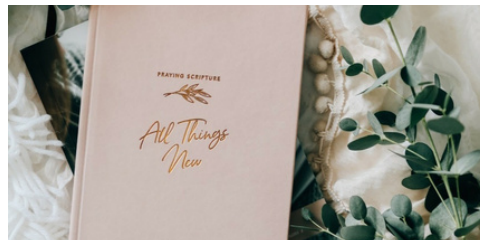
## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

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### BIBLE

Grab your Bible as we dive into this study! We used AMP Version to create this study but any version will do.



### DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL

You will need a place to write down the amazing nuggets we have for you! Grab a notebook and let's begin!



# LESSON BREAKDOWN

## 01

### MODULE ONE

**James 3:1**  
**~Teachers of  
the Word**

## 02

### MODULE TWO

**James 3:2-12**  
**~The Tongue.**



# MODULE 01

In this module, we will be studying James 3:1

Here, James shares with us about the gift of Teaching the Word of God (reference to 1 Cor.12) and why this gift carries with it a high level of responsibility to God and to the body of Christ.

Whether or not you possess the gift of teaching, this portion of scripture is relevant in your everyday life.

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## REMEMBER:

*Spend time reading the relevant portion of scripture before doing the study as the study is a breakdown of what the scripture says.*



# TEACHERS OF THE WORD.

JAMES 3:1

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are *manifestations of the Spirit given to sons and daughters of God for the common good of the Body of Christ & the Kingdom of God* (1 Cor. 12:7) and there are various types of gifts e.g. the gift of Wisdom, of healing, etc, and each of them come with a level of responsibility. The Gift of Teaching is no different.

The Gift of Teaching is a spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by making clear the truth of God's Word with accuracy. The primary responsibility of a

**"Not many [of you] should become teachers [serving in an official teaching capacity], my brothers and sisters, for you know that we [who are teachers] will be judged by a higher standard [because we have assumed greater accountability and more condemnation if we teach incorrectly]."**

**~James 3:1 AMP**



teacher of the Word of God is to communicate God's word with utmost clarity and accuracy. This is because the Word of God is the revelation of God's heart and who He is, and this very word carries in it the power to save people, therefore teachers must communicate and share God's word as the Holy Spirit expects them to.

This is why James says that teachers of the

**"...for you know that those who are teachers will be judged by a higher standard..."**

word will be judged with a higher standard.

It is them who help believers understand the word and the mysteries of God; it is them who can lead people to God or far away from God.

Don't get me wrong: The Holy Spirit is

## TEACHERS OF THE WORD.



the ultimate teacher and it is He who reveals all truth to His children and we ought to seek Him concerning His truth. Yet at the same time, He also uses people to reveal to people the mysteries of the Word and of the Kingdom of God.



"So, can anyone teach the Word of God? Must I have the gift of Teaching in order to teach God's Word?

And how do I know if I have this gift?"

Every believer, including you and I, are called to share the gospel.

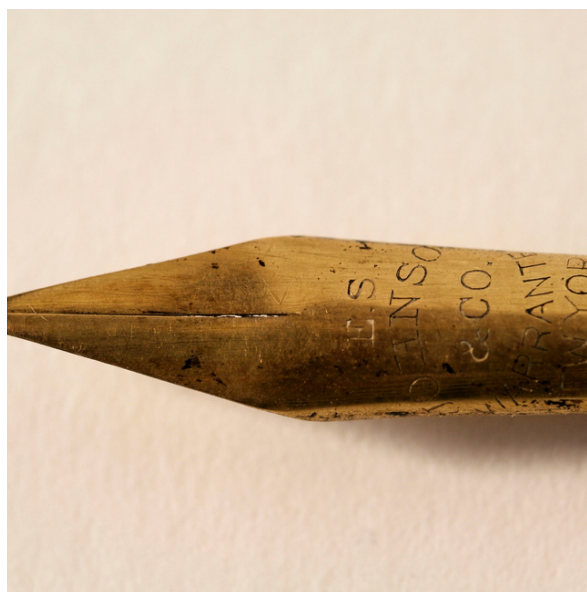
"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20 AMP

Let's focus on the first part of verse 19.

*"...Help the people learn of me, and help them obey my words... teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you..."*

That is your duty. That is my duty whether or not you have the gift of teaching -To help each other and non-believers learn who God is and teaching; in this case, showing and guiding those who are younger than you are in faith to obey God and His Word.





So, you don't need the gift to help others in learning the word and guiding them to follow God.

The only difference with those who have the gift is this:

God has set these people apart (who are called to serve in an official teaching capacity - James 3:1) to teach His Word for you and me to understand it better.

They help us understand certain principles we don't get; they compliment and add onto what we learn in our quiet time with God.

This is why they must teach with utmost accuracy and abiding by God's Word.

And that is why we must not make idols out of them or solely rely on them for understanding.

*"Then, how do I know if I have this gift?"*

1) You have a strong desire to learn the word as well as share the revelations you receive from the Holy Spirit with the sole aim of seeing people's lives change and be transformed after hearing the truth.

2) When you share/teach the word, you feel fulfilled.

You see it as your calling and the reason why God put you on this earth.

3) You have a strong desire to see and ensure truth is communicated with utmost accuracy. In an instance when it's not, you want to step in to ensure that the correct message is relayed.

[KINDLY NOTE: This isn't the ultimate test to know whether or not you have this gift. This information is as a result of experience + extensive research.]

4) You can follow the link below to take a test which help you determine what your gift is: [gifts.churchgrowth.org](https://gifts.churchgrowth.org)



# WORKSHEET

Take time to write down any reflections, thoughts or lessons you picked from the study. Also, take some time to read through the side-notes which will probe you and challenge you even further.

I encourage you to follow the link in the previous page so that you can learn what your spiritual gifting is (even if it is not Teaching) and how you can use it to serve God, His people and His Kingdom. Once you do, you can write it on the space to the right.

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Do you know that whether or not you have the Gift of Teaching, you have a responsibility to share God's word with accuracy?

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It's not just for teachers! You will also be held accountable for how you share God's Truth.

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## MODULE 2 OVERVIEW

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### REMEMBER:

*Spend time reading the relevant portion of scripture before doing the study as the study is a breakdown of what the scripture says.*

In this module, we will study James 3:2-12.

Here, James shares with us a powerful insight on how we use our Tongues.

He rebukes believers telling them that they cannot use their tongues to bless God and curse their fellow brothers (vs.9-10).

It should not be this way!

*How can you say you love God, yet hate and curse your brother?  
(1 John 4:20)*

Through this module, we will take time to examine our hearts and lives, and learn to let our words honour both God and people.

# THE TONGUE IS A FIRE!

JAMES 3:2-12

James begins his expose on the tongue by stating that we all sin and stumble in many ways and that the man who does not stumble in what he says, is a perfect man.

Let's break this down.

He says that *'If anyone does not stumble in what he says [never saying the wrong thing], he is a perfect man [fully developed in character, without serious flaws], able to bridle his whole body and rein in his nature [taming his human faults and weaknesses].'*

I believe that James isn't trying to set us to an unattainable standard, but he is







# MODULE 2

## THE TONGUE

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raising an important point:  
taming the tongue

He says that the man who says no wrong thing - the man who is in control of what he says- is able to bridle his whole body and reign in his nature meaning, such a man has the ability to tame his human faults & weaknesses (i.e. gossip, responding to someone in anger)

And we see this when a bridle is put into a horse's mouth: you control the horse's whole body (vs 3 and 4).

But why is it that this is so important?

Vs. 6 : The Tongue is a Fire

A small spark starts a huge forest fire (vs.5), and so does the tongue!

The words that come out of your mouth have the power to destroy someone, to kill someone, to tear them down. James calls it 'the very world of injustice and

### IMPORTANT

*We gotta learn to control our tongues; to control what comes out of our mouth.*

*But, we need to know that it stems from the heart.*

*-Renee Tikolo*

*"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable and pleasing in Your sight, O LORD, my [firm, immovable] rock and my Redeemer."*

*~Psalm 19:14 AMP*



abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

*You will only speak what you have been meditating upon; what you think about, i.e.*

Those incidences that you go over and over or that hurt that you meditate on that makes you angry to the point of expressing it verbally.

It all begins in the heart.

That is why David said in Psalm 19:14 *'Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable and pleasing in your sight.'*

- sets on fire the course of our life

-The tongue can destroy our lives. The words we speak (negative self-talk and the negative words we speak to others) can destroy us.

unrighteousness.'

He also state that the tongue:

- contaminates the entire body

-Remember Jesus said that it is not what goes into a man's mouth that makes him unclean but what comes out of his mouth (Mt. 15:11)?

-The ill words that come out of your mouth are what defile you.

But, remember, out of the



## MODULE 2

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- is itself set on fire by hell

-The tongue is set on fire meaning it can be burnt by the fires of hell, meaning we can go to hell because of our tongues (a restless evil, full of deadly poison [vs.8])

The foul words that come out of our mouth is what defiles us and causes us to sin against God, and can cost us heaven.

This is why we must be intentional about giving a guard over tongues and being mindful of what we say, to ourselves and to others.

It is not possible for the same mouth to bless God and curse others (vs.9), for bitter water and sweet water to come out of the same spring (vs.11 & 12). It shouldn't be this way.

We are to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to search our hearts to see if there is any unresolved issues or any hate or resentment towards others so that He can clean that up.

Because if He doesn't deal with the root issue, then everything else will be in vain because, remember, you only speak what is in your heart.

- *Reflect on your life and ask God to search your heart, revealing what's there as well as the pattern of behaviour related to the words you speak.*
- *Learn your triggers and what makes you tick.*
- *Ask God to begin to work on your heart and be willing to do the work that comes with it.*

# WORKSHEET

Take time to write down the lessons you have learned as well as your own reflections in the space below.

Feel free to express what's on your heart.

YOUR THOUGHTS/ REFLECTIONS/ LESSONS  
LEARNT:



# WORKSHEET

Use the Journaling Prompts below to challenge yourself. Write down the answers and whatever else is in your heart and mind on the extra page after this.

WHAT STOOD OUT THE MOST FOR YOU IN THIS MODULE?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF IN THIS STUDY?

WHAT WILL YOU DO DIFFERENT MOVING FORWARD WITH THE KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE GAINED?

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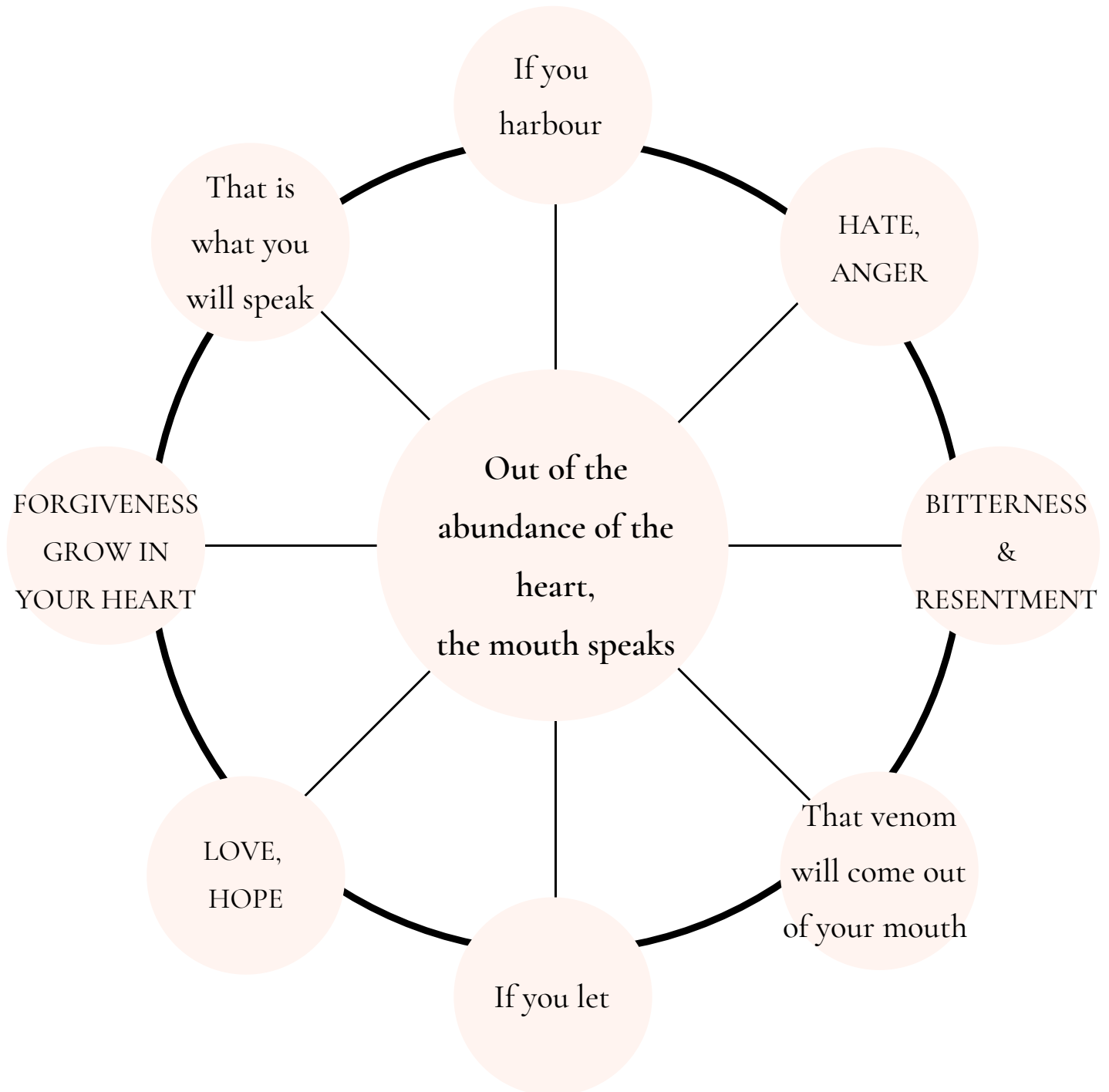
# SUMMARY OF LESSONS

Here is a summary of the entire study:



# REMEMBER!!

This diagram can help you remember what you learn, as well as cause you to check yourself in times when you need it.







"Be Intentional about  
keeping a guard over  
your tongue.  
Let the words of your  
mouth please God."

*RENEE TIKOLO*

# WHAT'S NEXT?

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Continue to meditate on these truths. This is so that you can remember them as well as hide God's word in your heart.

Remember this scripture:

*"Understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters, Let everyone be quick to hear [be a careful, thoughtful listener], slow to speak [a speaker of carefully chosen words and], slow to anger [patient, reflective, forgiving]."*

~James 1:19 AMP

## NEXT STEPS

- If you enjoyed this study, tell someone about it! Send them to our website so that they can get theirs for FREE!
- In relation to this study, we have a 21 Day Challenge coming up! Subscribe and stay tuned!

# 21 Day

Power of  
The Tongue

# Challenge

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MATERIAL.



*That's a Wrap!*

Thank you for completing this study!!

I hope it has impacted you as much as it did me and you have a deeper understanding of the Gifts of Teaching as well as the Tongue.

Remember to look out for the 'POWER OF THE TONGUE'  
Challenge that's coming soon!

For more resources head over to [unscripted.co.ke](https://unscripted.co.ke).

If you have any questions, feel free to reach us at  
[HELLO@UNSCRIPTED.CO.KE](mailto:HELLO@UNSCRIPTED.CO.KE)