

# Christianity For DUMMIES

The Untamable Beast  
James 3:1–12

# 1. A Diffuse Problem (vv. 1-2).

- The Greek word for “Perfect” is “teleios,” meaning complete.
- The first step to control the tongue is to recognize that fact and honestly and sincerely listen to the words we are unleashing daily.

2. It's Disproportionate Power (vv. 3-5).

a. Bits/Horses (v. 3).

b. Rudder/Ships (v. 4).

c. Tongue/body (v. 5a).

d. Spark/fire (v. 5b).

### 3. It's *Destructive* Potential (vv. 6-8)

- The tongue is a *Fire*, which is a very appropriate analogy for the tongue.
- This reflects the four-fold order of the creation of *animal species* in Genesis 1.

## 4. It's Deplorable Propensity (vv. 9-12)

- This activity of blessing is cited by James as THE highest, purest, most noble form of speech.
- Like Jesus, James sees a person's speech for what it truly is...a matter of the heart.