



Empowered Week Six
“Taming The Tongue”
James 3:1-12
The Spirit empowers us to have self-control

The Holy Spirit of God empowers us to be the the people God longs for us to be.

Today: The Spirit empowers us to have self-control... particularly as it relates to how we speak.

Language has the power to create meaning—both good and bad

When you start having to spell stuff out... B-A-T-H

This leads to full inclusion into our communities...

But there's a dark side of this—a destructive side

Labeling, Hurtful words, Killing remarks....

When you open your mouth you can create life or death

We were created to create life—it's in our very DNA

But we fall short of this—which is why we need the power of the Spirit.

James 3:1-12

- *Written by James the brother of Jesus—these verses are different.*
- *There is a very hard, very literal translation of verse 6 that illuminates it.*
- *The word tamed is “damazo” which means to overpower—gladiators.*
- *James places this in the middle of a cosmic struggle.*
- *The Shemoneh Esreh—a way of praying every day... reveals true self.*

We know what killing speech looks like

Words that divide, breed hatred, gossip, focused on the negative

The Spirit opposes this vehemently.

So how do we let the Spirit work in our lives to change this?

- 1. Change your habits—stop taking in so much negativity.*
- 2. Be proactive and let the Spirit lead you to positive interactions, speech*
- 3. Spend time praying and opening up the conduits.*

If you want to be the person God longs for you to be, you will need to let the Spirit teach you self-control.



SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Will Willimon
The Holy Spirit

Joseph D. Small
Fire And Wind: The Holy Spirit In The Church Today

Francis Chan
The Forgotten God

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DAILY DEVOTIONALS THIS WEEK:

The daily devotionals will be posted on Pastor Leon’s blog, linked on his Tumblr account, the church’s Facebook Page and Twitter.