

# THE POWER OF OUR TONGUE

JAMES 3:1-12

FAITH

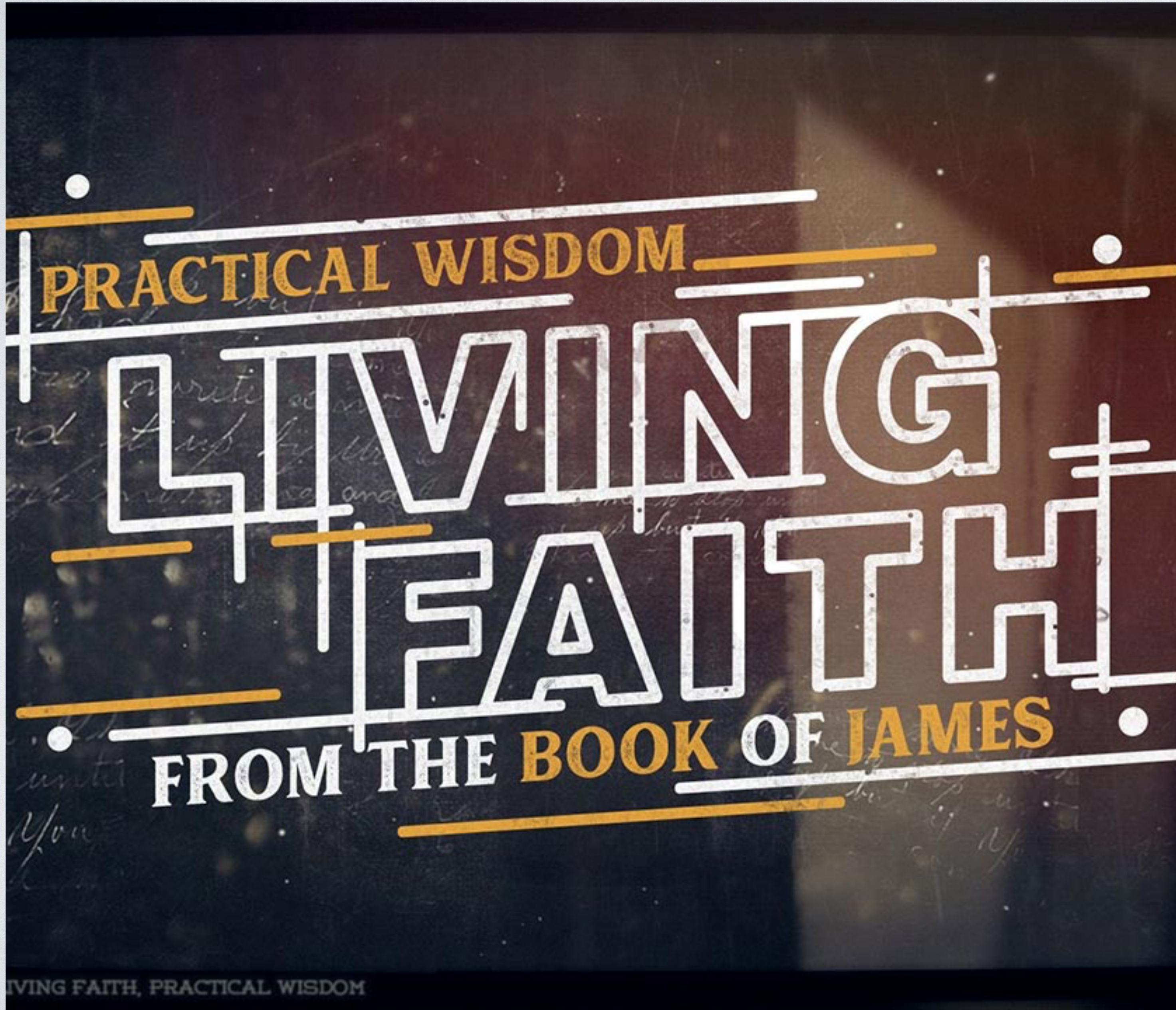
WORKS

THE BOOK OF JAMES

<sup>5</sup> Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.  
See how great a forest a little fire kindles! — James 3:5 (NKJV)



# INTRODUCTION: LIVING FAITH / PRACTICAL WISDOM



- **TRIALS** (1:2-12)
- **TEMPTATION** (1:13-16)
- WE MUST BE **DOERS OF THE WORD** - (1:17-27)
- THE SIN OF **PARTIALITY** (2:1-13)
- SAVING FAITH IS AN **OBEDIENT FAITH** — FAITH VOID OF OBEDIENCE DOES NOT SAVE (2:14-26)





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**James 3:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.



A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a person's face, focusing on the nose and mouth. The person has a mustache and is looking downwards. The background is a fiery, orange and yellow glow, suggesting a fire or a dramatic, intense setting. The overall mood is serious and warning.

# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**Matthew 12:33-37 (NKJV)**

**<sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**



# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**Psalm 39:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> I said, “I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me.”





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**James 1:26 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless.







# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**Your Tongue Is Powerful!**

**Your Tongue Is Dangerous!**

**Your Tongue Can Be Used To  
Sin & Harm Others!**

**Your Tongue Can Be  
Controlled & Used For Good!**



# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**Tremendous Power For Good & Evil**  
**(Proverbs 15:1-7; Jam. 3:1-6)**

## **Proverbs 15:1–7 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. <sup>2</sup> The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. <sup>3</sup> The eyes of the Lord *are* in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good. <sup>4</sup> A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**Tremendous Power For Good & Evil  
(Proverbs 15:1-7; Jam. 3:1-6)**

**Proverbs 15:1–7 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent. <sup>6</sup> *In* the house of the righteous *there is* much treasure, But in the revenue of the wicked is trouble. <sup>7</sup> The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, But the heart of the fool *does* not *do* so.





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

## NEEDED PRECAUTIONS: (James 3:1-2)

### James 3:1–2 (NKJV)


<sup>1</sup> My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

## NEEDED PRECAUTIONS: (James 3:1-2)

- 
- A man in a light blue shirt and yellow tie is shown from the chest up, looking upwards with his mouth wide open. A large, bright orange and yellow flame is coming out of his mouth, extending upwards. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.
- **“let not many of you become teachers”**
  - ▶ An IMPORTANT & NECESSARY function (Acts 13:1; Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28; 1 Pet. 3:15)
  - ▶ A great RESPONSIBILITY, which comes with great ACCOUNTABILITY (Acts 20:25-28; 1 Timothy 1:7)
  - ▶ Requires great self-control, thus a spiritual, purified heart (Mat 12:35)



# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

## SMALL BUT POWERFUL: (James 3:3-5)

### James 3:3–5 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. <sup>4</sup> Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. <sup>5</sup> Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!



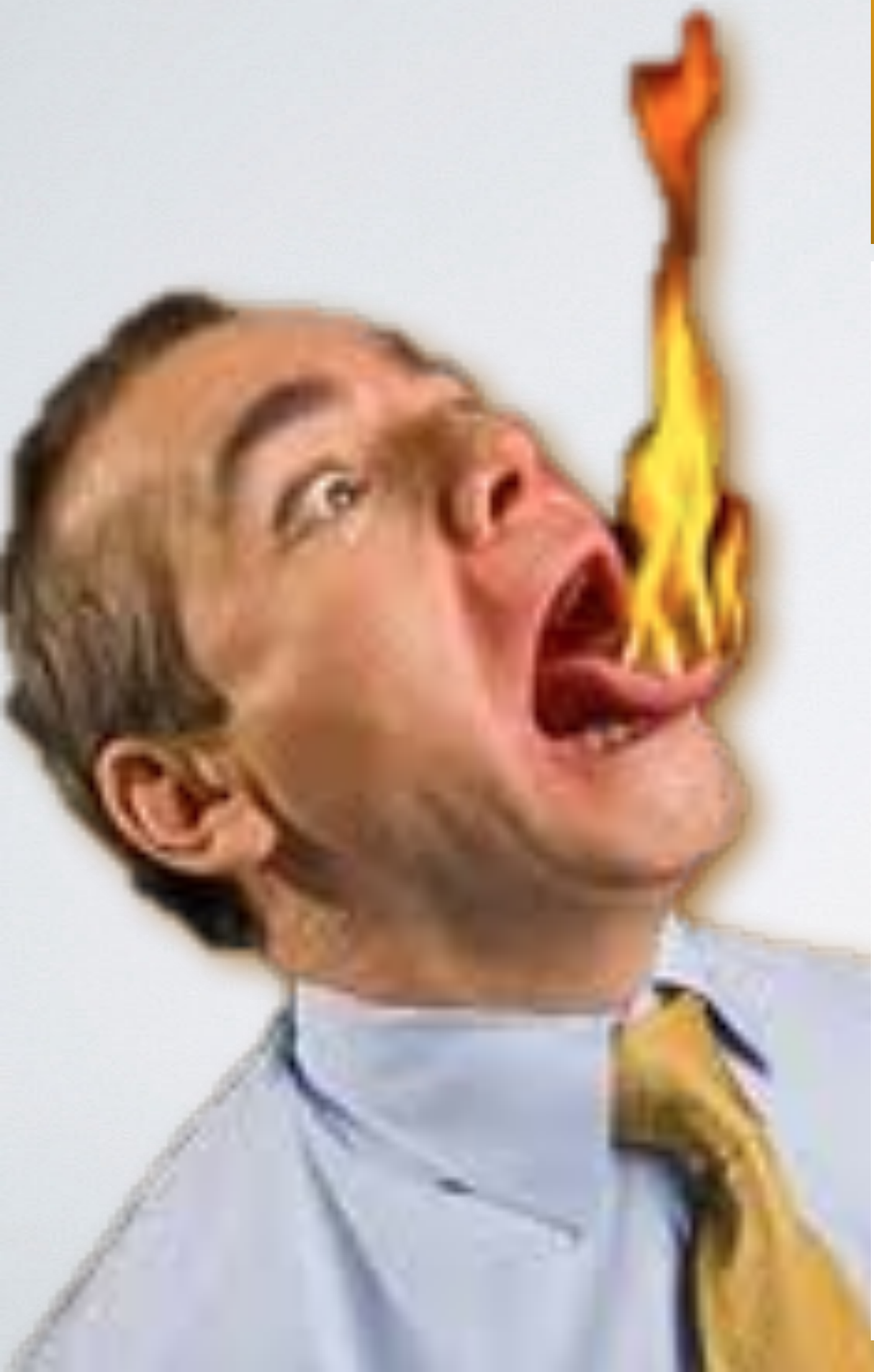


# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**SMALL BUT POWERFUL: (James 3:3-5)**

■ **The tongue is small but ...**

- ▶ Like a small bit or rudder ...
- ▶ Like a small fire that can spread out of control and destroy much
- ▶ Can defile and destroy us and our relationships,



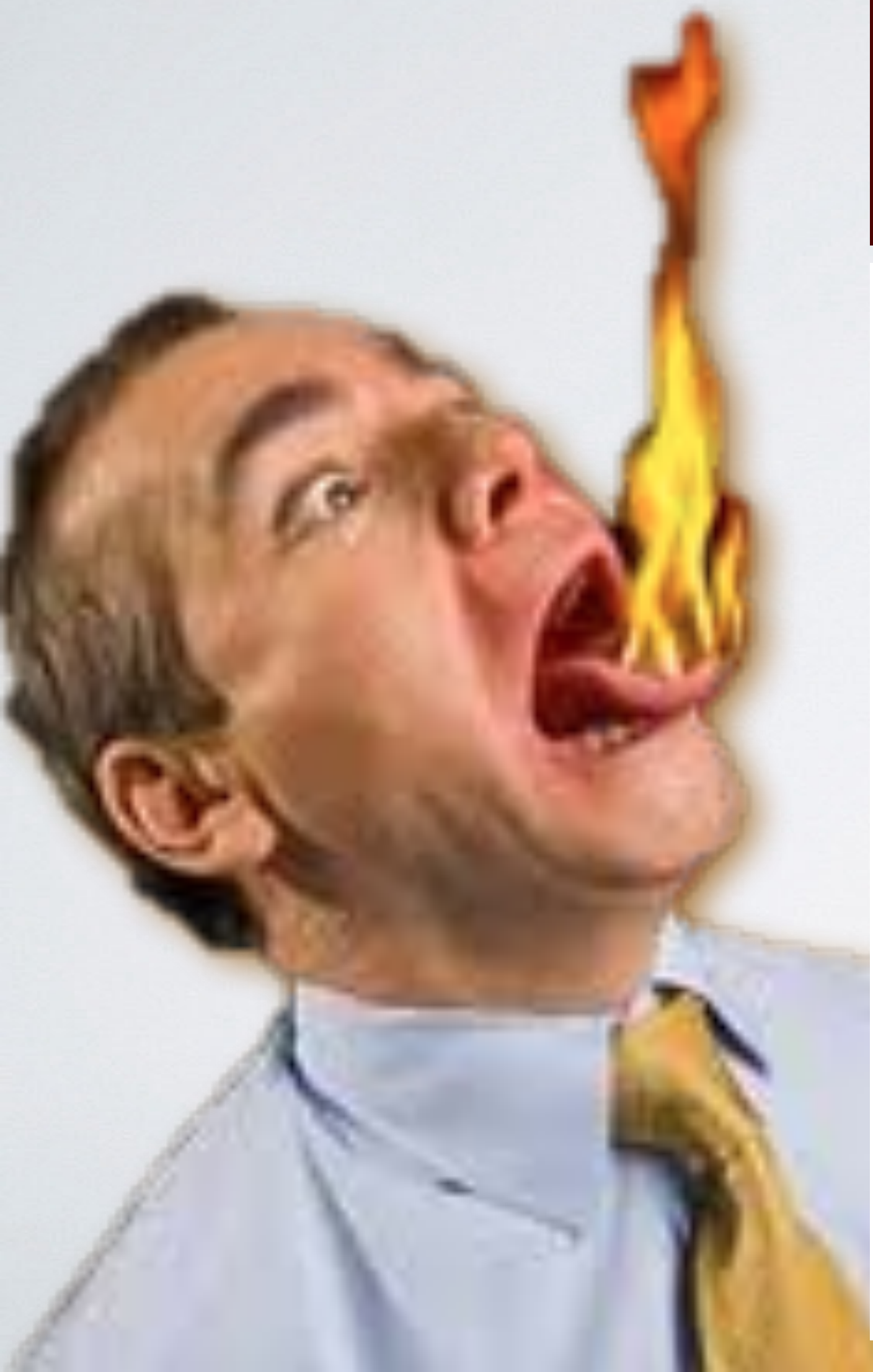


# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**EASILY ADVANCES EVIL: (James 3:6)**

**James 3:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.



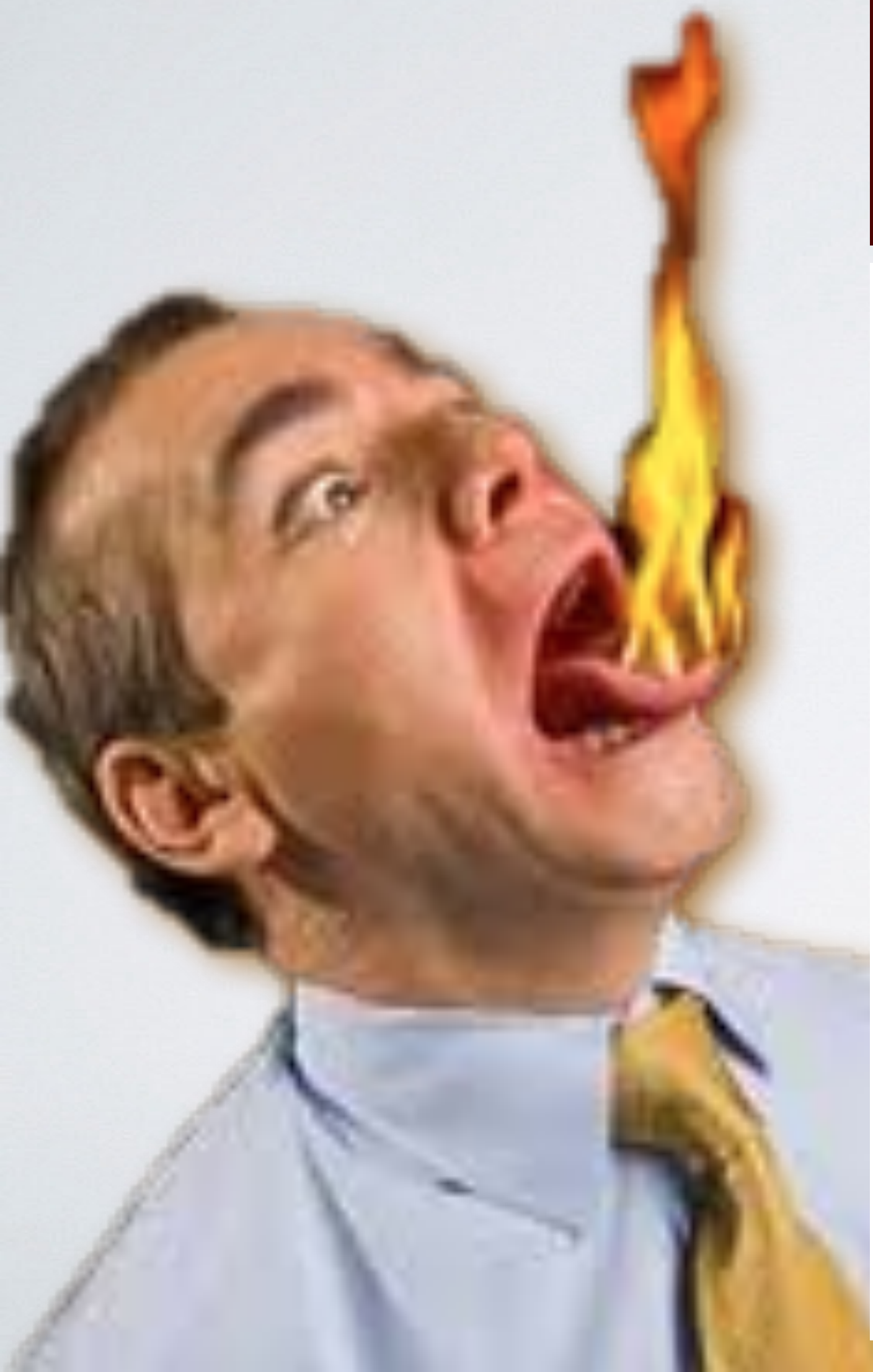


# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

## EASILY ADVANCES EVIL: (James 3:6)

### ■ Can Cause **MUCH TROUBLE** - 3:6

- ▶ “World of iniquity” - stirs up sin (Prov 26:21)
- ▶ Defiles the whole body. (Mt 12:34-35)
- ▶ “Sets on fire the course (wheel) of nature” - can consume all aspects of one’s life - and destroy those nearby.
- ▶ “Is set on fire of hell” - the source of the deadly fire is hell itself (lit., “Gehenna,”)





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**NEVER FULLY TAMED: (James 3:7-8)**

**James 3:7–8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. <sup>8</sup> But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

## NEVER FULLY TAMED: (James 3:7-8)

### ■ BUT CAN BE CONTROLLED

- ▶ Pro. 10:19 "he who restrains his lips is wise"
- ▶ Ps 141:3 "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips."
- ▶ Psa. 34:13 "Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit"





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

## NEVER FULLY TAMED: (James 3:7-8)

### ■ BUT CAN BE CONTROLLED

- ▶ Ep 4:29 “<sup>29</sup> Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”
- ▶ Co 4:6 <sup>6</sup> *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**THE EVIL USE OF THE TONGUE SHOULD NOT OCCUR AMONG CHRISTIANS: (James 3:9-12)**

## **James 3:9–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**THE EVIL USE OF THE TONGUE SHOULD NOT OCCUR AMONG CHRISTIANS: (James 3:9-12)**

## ■ A HEART ISSUE

- ▶ How can a good and pure heart produce words that are evil, hurtful, and destructive?
- ▶ In order for polluted water to come out of a faucet, the water in the tank, (source), must be polluted!
- ▶ Our words come from our thoughts.





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**THE EVIL USE OF THE TONGUE SHOULD NOT OCCUR AMONG CHRISTIANS: (James 3:9-12)**

## ■ A HEART ISSUE

### **Proverbs 10:11–14 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> The mouth of the righteous *is* a well of life, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked. <sup>12</sup> Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins. <sup>13</sup> Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, But a rod *is* for the back of him who is devoid of understanding. <sup>14</sup> Wise *people* store up knowledge, But the mouth of the foolish *is* near destruction.





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**THE EVIL USE OF THE TONGUE SHOULD NOT OCCUR AMONG CHRISTIANS: (James 3:9-12)**

## ■ A HEART ISSUE

**Matthew 12:33–37 (NKJV)**

<sup>33</sup> “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit. <sup>34</sup> Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.





# SINS OF THE TONGUE

## **CURSING**

ROM. 12:14; JA. 3:9.

## **WHISPERS**

ROM 1:29

## **FOOLISH**

EPH. 5:4

## **FLATTERY**

PSALM 12:3

## **BACKBITING**

ROM 1:30

## **JESTING**

EPH. 5:4

## **EVIL SPEECH**

EPH. 3:31

## **BOASTING**

ROM 1:39

## **IDLE WORDS**

MAT. 12:36

## **LYING / DECEIT**

REV. 21:8; ROM 3:13

## **COMPLAINING**

1 COR. 10:10

## **BLASPHEMY**

COL. 3:8

## **TALE BEARING**

LEV. 19:16

## **REVILING**

1 COR. 6:10

## **FALSE DOCTRINE**

TITUS 1:10,11

## **FILTHINESS**

COL. 3:8

## **HARSH**

MAT. 5:22

## **SILENT**

JOHN 12:42





# WATCH YOUR MOUTH



## ■ USE YOUR TONGUE TO:

- ▶ Praise God (James 3:9)
- ▶ Thank God (Col. 3:17)
- ▶ Pray (James 1:5-6; 5:13-16; 5:14-20).
- ▶ Sing to the Lord (James 5:13).
- ▶ Build up and strengthen one another (Heb. 10:24; 1 Cor. 14:26; 1 Th. 5:11).
- ▶ Encourage one another (Acts 11:23; 20:2)
- ▶ Speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)



# WATCH YOUR MOUTH



## ■ USE YOUR TONGUE TO:

- ▶ EXPOSE ERROR WITH TRUTH
- ▶ INSTRUCT IN RIGHTEOUSNESS
- ▶ RESTORE THE ERRING
- ▶ EXPRESS GRATITUDE
- ▶ COMPLIMENT OTHERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS
- ▶ COMFORT THE WEAK AND SUFFERING.
- ▶ TEACH THE LOST



# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

THESE THINGS **OUGHT** TO BE SO (Romans 6:,1,2)



- DETERMINE TO TRUST AND OBEY THE LORD (1 PET. 3:15)
- PURIFY YOUR HEART (PROV. 4:23,34)
- LEARN TO LOVE GOD SUPREMEY,  
AND OTHERS AS YOURSELF (MAR.  
12:29-31)
- LET YOUR SPEECH BE SEASONED WITH  
SALT (COL. 4:6)



A close-up, profile view of a lion's head on the left side of the frame. The lion's mouth is open, and a large, intense flame of fire is breathing out from it, filling the lower half of the image. The background is dark, making the fire and the lion's features stand out. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

**Matthew 12:33-37 (NKJV)**

**<sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**









# WATCH YOUR MOUTH

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# Matthew 12:33–37 (NKJV)

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<sup>34</sup> Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. <sup>36</sup> But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”