James 1:26 (NLT)

If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.

James 3:3-4 (NLT)

We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. [4] And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong.

James 3:5-6 (NLT)

In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. [6] And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

NO ONE can TAME the Tongue?

James 3:3-12

Once the words are SAID
they cannot be UN-SAID
they may be FORGIVEN but some
words are NEVER forgotten.

Words of hate, prejudice, slander, jealousy, and envy seem to come from the very lake of fire where Satan will be punished.

→ The Tongue is **SMALL** but has a Huge **IMPACT**

>Our **WORDS** mean things - what we **SAY** matters

Matthew 15:18-19 (NLT)

But the words you speak COME from the HEART - that's what defiles you.

For from the HEART COME evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, LYING, and SLANDER.

Matthews 12:34 (NIV)

...For out of the **OVERFLOW** of the **HEART** the **mouth speaks**.

>The Mouth Speaks what is IN the HEART

Matthews 12:34 (NIV)

...For out of the **OVERFLOW** of the **HEART** the **mouth speaks**.

>Our Words Mean things - WHAT we say and HOW we say it Matters

James does not say NO ONE
can tame the tongue, but NO MAN:
so that when it IS tamed
we confess that this is
brought about by the mercy,
help, and the grace of God.

PRAISING our Lord and Father is the best activity of the tongue, whereas
 CURSING those made in His image is one of the worst, because it is an implied curse on God himself.

→ Every human being is MADE in the IMAGE of God

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

So God CREATED man in HIS own IMAGE, in the image of God HE created him; male and female HE created them.

Galatians 4:4-5 (NET)
...God sent out His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to **REDEEM** those who were under the law, so that we may be

ADOPTED as sons with full rights.

Matthews 12:34 (NIV)

...For out of the OVERFLOW of the HEART the mouth speaks.

What SHOULD we DO when we Sin with OUR Words?

Confess it to GOD

1 Jn. 1:9 (NIV) If we CONFESS our sins, HE is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and PURIFY us from all unrighteousness.

Confess it to the PERSON

Matt. 5:23-24 (NLT) So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, [24] leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be RECONCILED to that person...

Ask God to GUARD our WORDS

Psalms 141:3 (NIV) **Set a guard** over my mouth, **O LORD**; **keep watch** over the door of my lips.

Psalms 141:3 (NLT) **Take control of what I** say, O LORD, and keep my lips sealed.

Ask God to CHANGE our HEART

Psalms 51:10 (NIV) Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

Do not LET any UNWHOLESOME talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:30-32 (NIV)

And do **not GRIEVE** the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were **sealed** for the day of **redemption**.

[31] **Get rid of ALL** bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. [32] Be **kind** and **compassionate** to one another, **FORGIVING each other**, just as in Christ God forgave you.

WORDS are POWERFUL before Speaking ask...

- Is it True?
- Is it Kind?
- Is it Necessary?
- Does it Build Up?
- Does it Refresh?
- Does it Honor God?

Matthews 12:34 (NIV)

...For out of the OVERFLOW of the HEART the mouth speaks.

May the mind of Christ my Savior
Live in me from day to day;
By Your love and Power controlling
All I do and say

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour
So that all may see I Triumph
Only through Your Power

May the Peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and Sorrowing