



Sunday, January 9, 2022

Sermon Series:  
James: A Practical Faith that Works

Title: *“Avoiding the ‘Etch-a-Sketch’ Principle”*

Text: James 3:1-12

Pastor Perry Kallis

**Big Idea:** Transformed believers will develop godly habits that help maintain control over their words, whether they come from their tongues or their twitter accounts.

1) **Our words have the power to steer.** (James 3:3-4 / Psalm 141:3-4)

2) **Our words have the power to spread.**

(James 3:5-8 / Proverbs 26:20-21 / Matthew 12:36 / Proverbs 12:22 / Matthew 12:35)

**Four common destructive “tongue depressors:”**

Speaking careless words / gossiping / telling lies / cursing.

3) **Our words have the power to satisfy or suffocate.**

(James 3:9-12 / Proverbs 10:11 / Proverbs 4:23)

**Three “guard my words” Biblical prayers from Psalms:**

The prayer for purposeful words: Psalm 17:3

The prayer for pure words: Psalm 19:13-14

The prayer for protection over my words: Psalm 141:3

**Study/Application Questions and Actions:**

1) Think of the last time you wished you could “reel your words back in?” Do you think you are becoming better at avoiding that pain?

2) We’ve all accidentally said something that steered us into actions just to “save face.” What simple disciplines could have prevented that?

3) Which of the 4 destructive “tongue depressors” (careless words, gossip, lies, or cursing) has most damaged our society today? How might believers counter those vices in godly ways?

4) What are our usual justifications for why our words and our actions are sometimes in conflict? How might we defeat the sin of duplicity?

5) Read the three “guard my words” Biblical prayers out loud. Compose a paraphrase for each one.