

The Fire Behind Your Words
James 3 / March 1, 2026
Brandon Grant, Lead Pastor

THE LOUDEST MOMENT IN HISTORY

Toothpaste illustration

Everyone has a voice. We don't just disagree — we demolish.

James 3:1–18 MSG

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE (James 3:1-12)

Small bit → guides a horse...Small rudder → steers a ship...Small spark → burns a forest
The tongue is not neutral.

There are only two fires that ignite our words — heaven or hell.

“This is not right.”

IT'S NOT YOUR MOUTH—IT'S YOUR HEART (James 3:13–18)

Speech reveals the soul.

“What you say flows from what is in your heart.” (Luke 6:45)

Earthly wisdom → envy, ambition, disorder

Heavenly wisdom → pure, peace-loving, gentle, full of mercy

You can win the argument and lose your witness.

TONGUES OF FIRE

Acts 2:1-12 NLT

Acts 2 → fire from heaven unites and proclaims

James 3 → fire from hell divides and destroys

Same tongue. Different ignition.

VISION

What if we lowered the temperature wherever we go?

What if our words built up instead of tore down?

What if people said, “They sound like Jesus”?

This Week

Pause before posting | Pray before responding | Delete something

Apologize to someone

Ask the Spirit to light your words with heaven's fire