



Be One Person When You Speak // Jeff Brodie // June 28, 2026

You can learn more about what someone actually believes by listening to how they talk than by asking what they believe. The gap between what comes out of your mouth in public versus in private. James says your words aren't just words; they're pulling from a source, and that source is either making you more whole or slowly tearing you apart. There is a division there. This week, we're figuring out what's actually driving what you say and how to speak with an undivided voice.

Scripture: [James 3:1-18 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: The words are evidence of the wisdom you live by.

Digging In:

1. What's a sentence someone said to you years ago that you still remember today? What made it so memorable?
2. If the people closest to you described the way you normally speak, what words do you think they would use? (think tone and approach, not just the words you say)
3. Read James 3:16 NLT, James compares the tongue to a bit in a horse's mouth, a ship's rudder, and a spark that starts a forest fire (James 3:1–6). What does each illustration teach us about the power of our words?
4. The message suggested that our words are like symptoms that reveal what's happening in our hearts. Where have you seen that to be true in your own life?
5. Read James 3:13-18 NLT. James contrasts two kinds of wisdom. What differences stand out most to you between earthly wisdom and wisdom from above?
6. Which statement from the message challenged or encouraged you the most, and why?
7. Jesus said, "Whatever is in your heart determines what you say" (Matthew 12:34). What do your words tend to reveal about what's happening beneath the surface in your life right now?
8. Whose voice are you still carrying today? How have someone's words shaped your identity, confidence, or view of yourself - for better or for worse?
9. Our culture often says, "Just speak your truth," "Say whatever you feel," or "Don't let anyone silence you." How does James challenge or reshape those assumptions for us?

10. Whose voice might someone else still be carrying because of you? Is there a conversation, apology, encouragement, or reconciliation that God may be prompting you toward?
11. Think about your week ahead. Where are you most likely to be tempted to speak from earthly wisdom (jealousy, defensiveness, selfish ambition) instead of God's wisdom?
12. What would it look like to intentionally sow "seeds of peace" in one relationship this week?
13. The sermon suggested beginning each day by asking God for wisdom before evaluating your words later in the day. How could that practice help you become less reactive and more like Jesus?

Moving Forward:

Each morning this week, pray through James 3:17:

"God, fill me today with your wisdom. Make me pure, peace-loving, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy, sincere, and fruitful."

Then, at the end of each day, reflect on two questions:

Did my words tear anyone down today?

Did my words intentionally build someone up today?

Ask God to continue transforming your heart, not just your speech.