May 27, 2007
JAMES 3:1-5a

Just like we can't separate what we ***do*** from what we believe, we can't separate who we are from what we ***say***.

Your ***words*** matter!

We need to pay attention to how we speak is because the tongue has great potential to ***condemn*** you.

What James said about judgment wasn't that teachers ***alone*** will be judged for what they say, but that our judgment will be stricter. We'll all ***answer*** for our words.
Matthew 12:36-37.

We need to pay attention to how we speak because the tongue has great power to ***control*** you.

Perfect - "teleios" = ***mature***

If you get control of your mouth, you're demonstrating spiritual ***maturity***.

To the degree that our holiness approaches the holiness of ***Christ***, to the degree we are conformed to His image, to that degree will our speech be ***godly***.

The tongue is an instant expression of the ***heart***.
Luke 6:45

Whatever means of grace and whatever dynamics of spiritual commitment it takes to take care of your ***tongue*** are going to by virtue of controlling that, control the ***rest*** of you as well.

James 1:26
We can't separate the way we speak from who we are; which means if your ***faith*** in Christ is real, it will affect the way you ***speak***.

NOTES