



**Ancient Wisdom  
for Modern Times**

# Deadliest of All Weapons

# James 3:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness



## James 3:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

If you can learn to control your  
tongue, you can learn to control  
*every other part* of your being.

# Proverbs 12:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.



## James 3:3-4 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

<sup>4</sup> Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

# James 3:5a (ESV)

5a So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.



The background is a solid red color with embossed knot patterns in the corners. The top-left corner features a circular knot pattern, the top-right corner has a rectangular grid-like knot pattern, the bottom-left corner has a rectangular grid-like knot pattern, and the bottom-right corner has a large, detailed knot pattern.

# The Enormous Potential of the Tongue

## James 3:5b-6 (ESV)

<sup>5b</sup> How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

## James 3:7-8 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.



# Tongue Potential

Destructive

Total

Far-Reaching

Supernatural

Uncontrollable

## James 3:7-8 (ESV)

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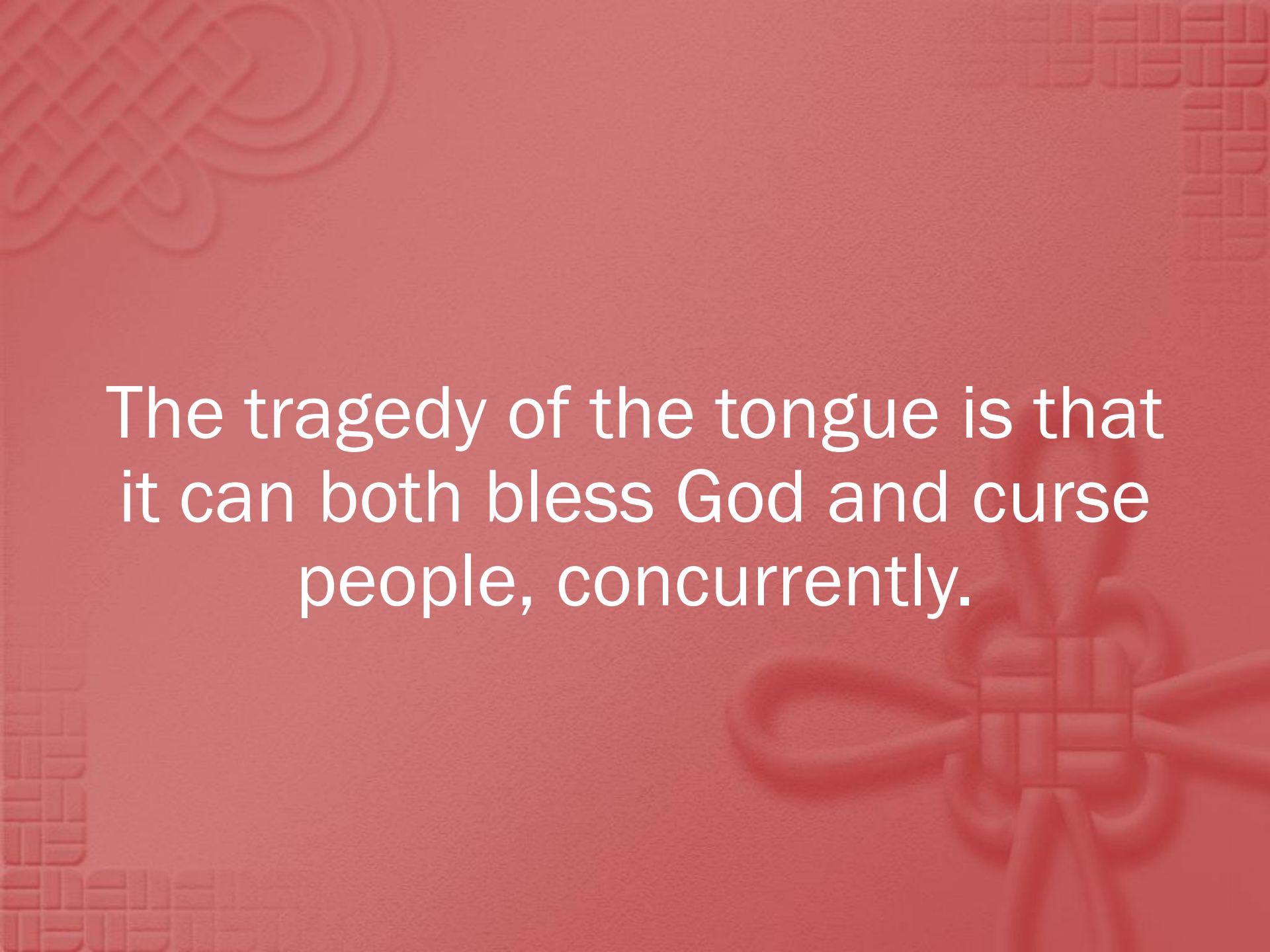
## James 3:9-10 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.



# James 3:11-12 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.



The tragedy of the tongue is that  
it can both bless God and curse  
people, concurrently.

Make every word count!



# Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

<sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

# Colossians 4:5-6(ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Make every word count!