

Wisdom from James, Brother of Jesus, Unpacked

Stanza 1

*My brothers, hear the truth I raise—let wisdom shape your speaking ways;
A hasty tongue brings fleeting praise, but measured words bring steady days.*

Scriptures

James 1:19 — “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak...”

Proverbs 10:19 — “Whoever restrains his lips is prudent.”

Proverbs 17:27 — “The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint.”

Summary

Wisdom—not emotion—must guide our speech. Quick, reactive words may feel powerful in the moment, but only disciplined words build lasting influence. James calls believers to slow down and let wisdom form their responses.

Stanza 2

*Be slow to speak when tempers flare, let patience hold you in its care;
For calm replies make burdens rare, and sow a peace both deep and fair.*

Scriptures

Proverbs 15:1 — “A gentle answer turns away wrath.”

James 3:17 — Wisdom from above is “peace-loving, considerate, submissive...”

Ephesians 4:2 — “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient.”

Summary

Patience is the soil where measured words grow. James echoes Proverbs: calm speech defuses conflict, while harsh words inflame it. A gentle tone builds peace and lightens the emotional load of difficult moments.

Stanza 3

*The tongue, though small, can burn the land, a spark no human plan has planned;
But gentle words, divinely manned, can heal the heart and firmly stand.*

Scriptures

James 3:5–6 — *“The tongue is a fire... it sets the whole course of one’s life on fire.”*

Proverbs 12:18 — *“Reckless words pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*

Proverbs 18:21 — *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”*

Summary

James warns that speech can ignite great destruction if left uncontrolled. Yet when governed by God, the tongue becomes a tool of healing. Measured words strengthen instead of scorch.

Stanza 4

*Let gracious speech in you increase, let kindness be your inner peace;
A gentle voice makes conflicts cease, and turns sharp anger into ease.*

Scriptures

Colossians 4:6 — *“Let your conversation be always full of grace.”*

Ephesians 4:29 — *Speak only what “builds others up.”*

Galatians 5:22–23 — The fruit of the Spirit includes *gentleness* and *self-control*.

Summary

Measured words are gracious words. James emphasizes the moral quality of speech. When our voices carry grace and kindness, conflict dissolves and hearts relax. Peaceful speech produces peaceful relationships.

Stanza 5

*Your words reveal the heart within, they show where grace or pride has been;
So let God’s Spirit guard your chin, and keep your soul from reckless sin.*

Scriptures

Luke 6:45 — *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”*

James 3:8 — *“No human being can tame the tongue.”*

Psalms 141:3 — *“Set a guard over my mouth, Lord.”*

Summary

James teaches that speech problems are heart problems. Only a Spirit-filled life can tame the tongue. Measured words come from a surrendered heart that invites God to guard every sentence we speak.

Stanza 6

*Walk wisely, friends, in all you do, let every word prove good and true;
For strength is shown when speech is few, and measured hearts speak life anew.*

Scriptures

Proverbs 13:3 — *“He who guards his lips guards his life.”*

Ecclesiastes 5:2 — *“Let your words be few.”*

1 Peter 3:10 — Keep your tongue *“from evil and your lips from deceitful speech.”*

Summary

A measured life produces measured speech. Wisdom often shows itself in fewer, stronger, intentional words. When our hearts are anchored in Christ, our words carry life, clarity, and transformational influence.

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