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# Our Words To One Another

# Relativism Turns Language Into A Weapon

## ➤ Relativism

- Now language throws off the yoke of servanthood and takes on a power of its own.
- It doesn't submit to objective, external reality; it creates its own reality.
- It no longer serves to display truth. Now it seeks to obtain the preferences of the user.
- This gives rise to every manner of spin. The goal of language is no longer the communication of reality, but the manipulation of reality. It no longer functions in the glorious capacity of affirming the embrace of confessional truth, but now it functions in the devious capacity of concealing defection from the truth.

# Relativism Turns Language Into A Weapon

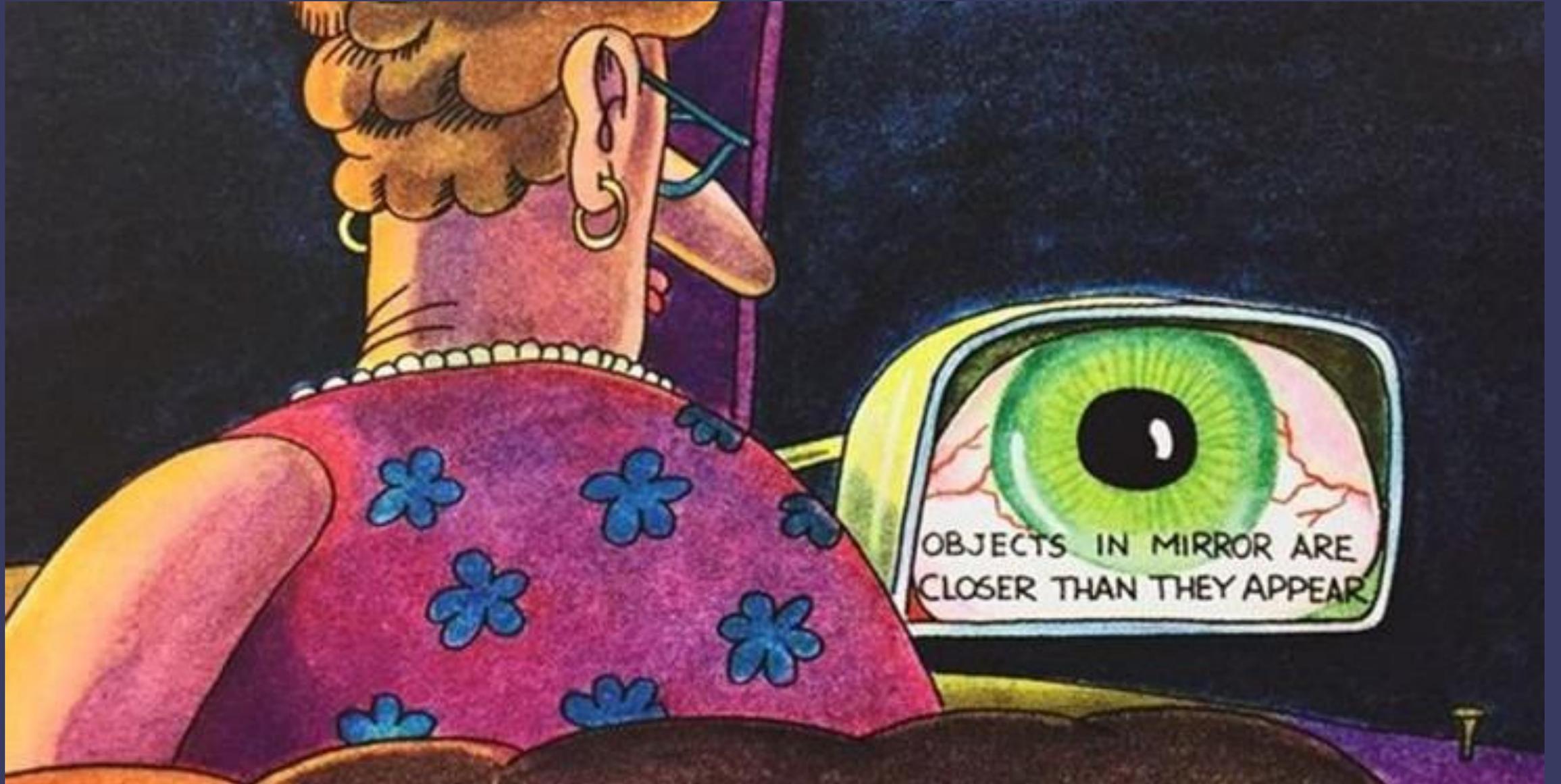
## ➤ Standard of God

Language holds the honorable place of expressing and carrying and transmitting the precious cargo of truth.

***Whoever wants to embrace true life, and find beauty in each day must stop speaking evil, hurtful words, and never deceive in what they say. Always turn from what is wrong, and cultivate what is good; eagerly pursue peace in every relationship, making it your prize.***

1 Peter 3:10-11 (TPT)

God Always Has  
A Higher  
Standard Than  
We Think



## Proverbs 18:21

- **The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (NIV)**
- **Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit. (NASB)**
- **What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words. (GNT)**

## Proverbs 15:2

- **The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly. (NIV)**
- **The wise speak, presenting knowledge appropriately, but fools spout foolishness. (ISV)**
- **The tongue of wisdom adorns knowledge, and the mouth of fools vomits a curse. (ABIPE)**
- **The tongues of wise people give good expression to knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out a flood of stupidity. (GWT)**

## Proverbs 12:13-14

- **An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, But the righteous will escape from trouble. A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words, And the deeds of a man's hands will return to him. (NASB)**
- **We trap ourselves by telling lies, but we stay out of trouble by living right. We are rewarded or punished for what we say and do. (CEV)**
- **The wicked are trapped by their own words, but honest people get themselves out of trouble. Your reward depends on what you say and what you do; you will get what you deserve. (GNT)**

## Proverbs 10:19

- **When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise. (NASB)**
- **Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut. (NLT)**
- **The more you talk, the more likely you are to sin. If you are wise, you will keep quiet. (GNT)**

## Proverbs 12:18

- **The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (NIV)**
- **There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing. (NASB)**
- **Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal. (GNT)**

## Proverbs 15:4

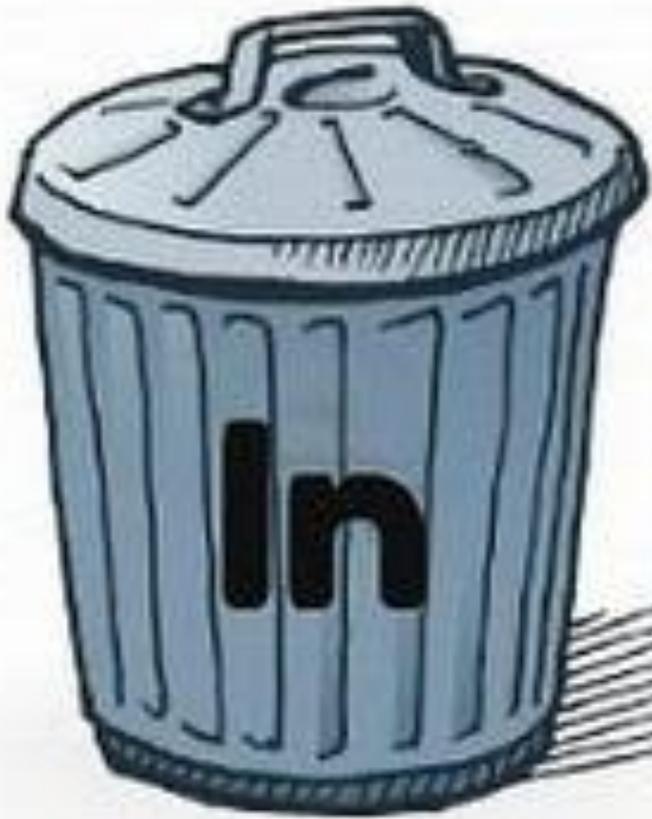
- **The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit. (NIV)**
- **A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. (ESV)**
- **Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit. (GNT)**

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## Matthew 12:35-37

- You snakes--how can you say good things when you are evil? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.
- A good person brings good things out of a treasure of good things; a bad person brings bad things out of a treasure of bad things.
- You can be sure that on the Judgment Day you will have to give account of every useless word you have ever spoken.
- Your words will be used to judge you--to declare you either innocent or guilty. (GNT)



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## James 3:1-12 (GNT)

- **1 My friends, not many of you should become teachers. As you know, we teachers will be judged with greater strictness than others.**
- **2 All of us often make mistakes. But if a person never makes a mistake in what he says, he is perfect and is also able to control his whole being.**

## James 3:1-12 (GNT)

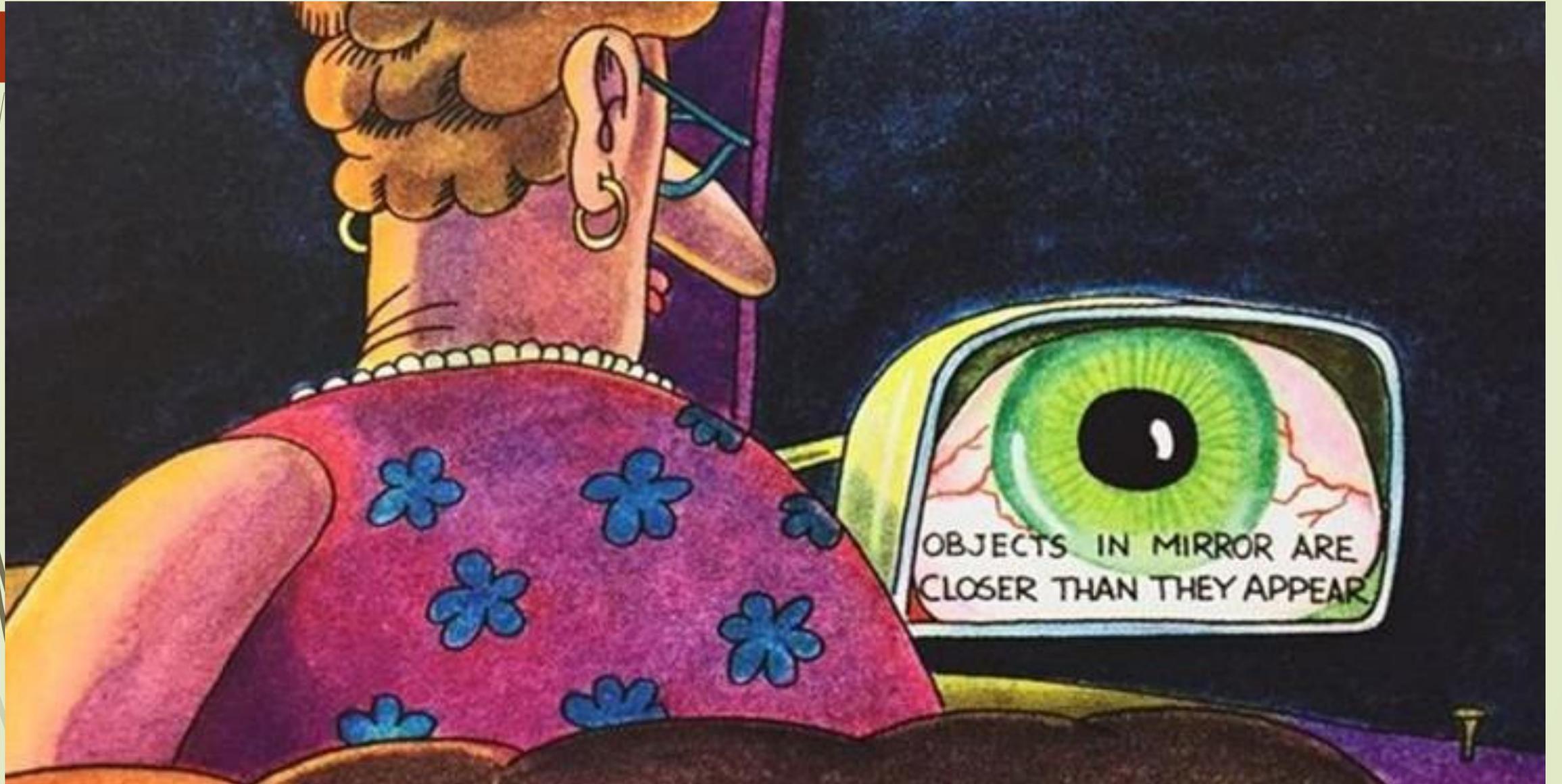
- ▶ **3 We put a bit into the mouth of a horse to make it obey us, and we are able to make it go where we want.**
- ▶ **4 Or think of a ship: big as it is and driven by such strong winds, it can be steered by a very small rudder, and it goes wherever the pilot wants it to go.**
- ▶ **5 So it is with the tongue: small as it is, it can boast about great things. Just think how large a forest can be set on fire by a tiny flame!**

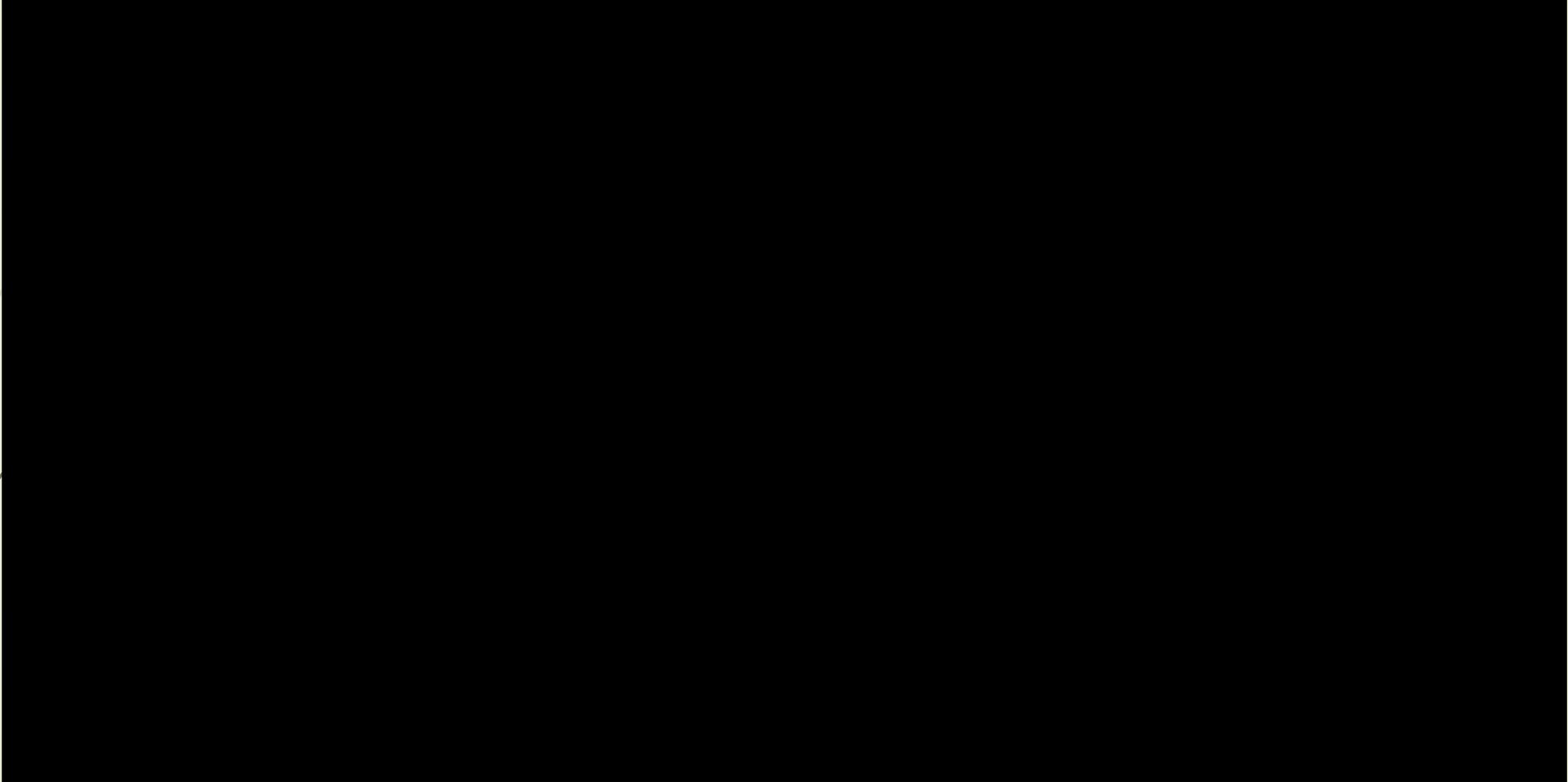
## James 3:1-12 (GNT)

- **6** And the tongue is like a fire. It is a world of wrong, occupying its place in our bodies and spreading evil through our whole being. It sets on fire the entire course of our existence with the fire that comes to it from hell itself.
- **7** We humans are able to tame and have tamed all other creatures--wild animals and birds, reptiles and fish.
- **8** But no one has ever been able to tame the tongue. It is evil and uncontrollable, full of deadly poison.

## James 3:1-12 (GNT)

- **9** We use it to give thanks to our Lord and Father and also to curse other people, who are created in the likeness of God.
- **10** Words of thanksgiving and cursing pour out from the same mouth. My friends, this should not happen!
- **11** No spring of water pours out sweet water and bitter water from the same opening.
- **12** A fig tree, my friends, cannot bear olives; a grapevine cannot bear figs, nor can a salty spring produce sweet water.

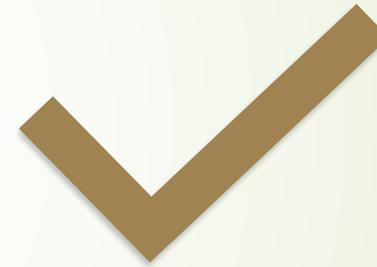




# What Should We Do?



The Word of God, in the Book of James gives us the answers!



The 20 Resolutions by Sinclair Ferguson

## The 20 Resolutions

1) *Resolved: To ask God for wisdom to speak and to do so with a single mind.*

- “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. . . . in faith with no doubting. . . . For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything . . . he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” ([James 1:5-8](#)).

2) *Resolved: To boast only in my exaltation in Christ or my humiliation in the world.*

- “Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away” ([James 1:9-10](#)).

3) *Resolved: To set a watch over my mouth.*

- “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one” ([James 1:13](#)).

## The 20 Resolutions

4) Resolved: To be constantly quick to hear, slow to speak.

- “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger” ([James 1:19](#)).

5) Resolved: To learn the gospel way of speaking to the poor and the rich.

- “My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ while you say to the poor man, ‘You stand over there,’ or, ‘Sit down at my feet,’ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?” ([James 2:1-4](#)).

6) Resolved: To speak in the consciousness of the final judgment.

- “So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty” ([James 2:12](#)).

# The 20 Resolutions

- 7) *Resolved: To never stand on anyone's face with words that demean, despise, or cause despair.*
  - "If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?" ([James 2:15-16](#)).
- 8) *Resolved: To never claim a reality I do not experience.*
  - "If you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth" ([James 3:14](#)).
- 9) *Resolved: To resist quarrelsome words as marks of a bad heart.*
  - "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?" ([James 4:1](#)).

# The 20 Resolutions

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- ▶ 10) *Resolved: To never speak evil of another.*
  - ▶ “Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge” ([James 4:11](#)).
- ▶ 11) *Resolved: To never boast in what I will accomplish.*
  - ▶ “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’ — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes” ([James 4:13](#)).
- ▶ 12) *Resolved: To always speak as one who is subject to the providences of God.*
  - ▶ “Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that’” ([James 4:15](#)).

# The 20 Resolutions

- 13) *Resolved: To never grumble, knowing that the Judge is at the door.*
  - “Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door” ([James 5:9](#)).
- 14) *Resolved: To never allow anything but total integrity in my speech.*
  - “But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your ‘yes’ be yes and your ‘no’ be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation” ([James 5:12](#)).
- 15) *Resolved: To speak to God in prayer whenever I suffer.*
  - “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray” ([James 5:13](#)).

## The 20 Resolutions

16) *Resolved: To sing praises to God whenever I am cheerful.*

- “Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise” ([James 5:13](#)).

17) *Resolved: To ask for the prayers of others when I am sick.*

- “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord” ([James 5:14](#)).

18) *Resolved: To confess it whenever I have failed.*

- “Therefore, confess your sins to one another” ([James 5:16](#)).

# The 20 Resolutions

19) *Resolved: To pray for one another when I am together with others in need.*

- “Pray for one another, that you may be healed” ([James 5:16](#)).

20) *Resolved: To speak words of restoration when I see another wander.*

- “My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins” ([James 5:19–20](#)).