



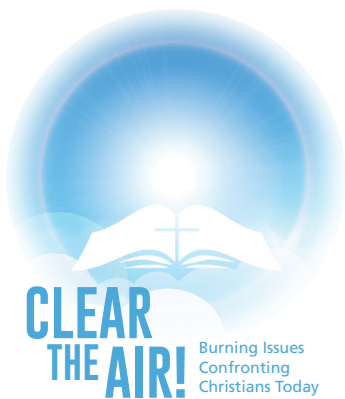
# Taming Our Digital Tongue: Using Social Media to Bless, Not Curse | James 3

**English Services**  
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

- Prelude
- Call to Worship
- Worship through Praise
- Baptism (10:30 a.m.)
- Worship through Fellowship
- Community Prayer
- Scripture Reading
- Worship in the Word  
*Pastor Larry Pabiona*  
*Pastor BJ Sebastian*<sup>5:30 p.m.</sup>
- Worship through Giving
- Response Song
- Benediction

**Filipino Service**  
(3 n.h.)

- Paghahanda
- Tawag sa Pagsamba
- Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
- Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
- Panalangin ng Komunidad
- Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
- Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos  
*Pastor BJ Sebastian*
- Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
- Tugon na Awit
- Bendisyon



**CLEAR THE AIR!**  
Burning Issues  
Confronting  
Christians Today

**11/12 January 2020**  
Vol. 42, No. 2



# Taming Our Digital Tongue: Using Social Media to Bless, Not Curse

Today's Message (11/12 January 2020) /  
*James 3*

The boon and bane of social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, blogs, etc.) is that everything you tweet or post has a tremendous multiplier effect. So when we misuse our digital tongue to malign fellow believers (which is the context of James) we have stooped to cursing, and multiplied its harmful effects a million-fold. But it doesn't have to be that way. As our passage indicates, a genuine believer is meant by God to bless, not curse. Note how James guides us to solve the problem of the tongue through the wisdom God lovingly provides for us:

## 1. THE D\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_ OF OUR TONGUE (vv. 1-8)

- Our tongue (verbal and digital) is powerful but uncontrollable, and therefore dangerously destructive! How evil can our speech get? How low can we go? "The tongue is...a world of unrighteousness...set on fire by hell...It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison".
- Two implications:
  - Because of more severe judgment, those who teach from right motives need your prayers, so that they speak nothing but the truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15*). Pray also for your protection from hirelings and false teachers.
  - Realize that the damage mentioned in our text comes from ordinary speech. When it comes to social media (the digital tongue) the damage is much greater because of these overlapping realities:
    1. Publicity: you just crucified someone in public and violated Matthew 18:15-17, 21-35. Even if you regret your posts and delete them, you can't contact each reader one by one to apologize or explain. They may also never see your apology or retraction.
    2. Irreversibility: even if you delete your posts, others may have already forwarded and/or screen captured them, or told countless others about them.
    3. Permanency: even if you delete your posts they are already permanently engraved in other people's visual memories.

## 2. THE D\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_ FOR OUR TONGUE (vv. 9-12)

- God gave us tongues, to bless Him and others. James calls out a hypocrisy: "With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God".
- Consistent with his argument from chapters 1-2, James implicitly questions the salvation of those who keep using their tongue (including the digital version) to curse people while using it to bless God: "Can a fig tree...bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water".



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*James 3*

## 3. THE D\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_ FOR OUR TONGUE (vv. 13-18)

- The problem is not really the tongue. It is the heart. It is easy to have “jealousy and selfish ambition” causing “disorder and every vile practice” (v. 16). To control the tongue, a Christian should follow God’s wisdom. This wisdom is already in every true believer through the Holy Spirit. But we can choose to use it or refuse it.
- How do we know we are talking/tweeting/posting with God’s wisdom instead of demonic wisdom? How can we use our tongue (verbal and particularly, digital) to bless rather than curse? Screen your words, verbal or digital, through these evidences of God’s wisdom before you release them:
  1. **Pure.** Has spiritual integrity and moral sincerity (*Psalm 24:3,4; 51:7, Matthew 5:8, Romans 7:22,23, Hebrews 12:14*).
  2. **Peaceable.** Peace loving, peace promoting (*Matthew 5:9*).
  3. **Gentle.** Moderation without compromise, kindness without weakness. Does not deliberately cause fights, but neither does he compromise the truth in order to keep peace (*Matthew 5:10-11*).
  4. **Open to reason.** Agreeable and easy to live with (*Matthew 5:3-5*). Willing to hear all sides of a question, but does not compromise his own convictions. Can disagree without being disagreeable (*James 1:19*).
  5. **Full of mercy.** Concern for those who suffer pain and hardship, and the ability to forgive quickly (*Matthew 5:7, Romans 12:8*).
  6. **Impartial.** Consistent and undivided in conviction, and does not make unfair distinctions.
  7. **Sincere.** Has openness and honesty. Religious politics is an abomination to God. Faith is living without scheming.
- The outcome of a tongue that blesses rather than curses, makes all the effort worth it: a harvest of righteousness! Whose? Both yours and of those that you chose to bless rather than curse (*James 1:20, Matthew 5:9*).

## FINAL THOUGHTS

One of the sins God especially hates is to “sow discord among brothers” (*Proverbs 6:19*). Imagine how widespread, irreversible and permanent discord becomes when we misuse social media, instead of doing things God’s way (*Matthew 18:15-17, 21-35*). God’s righteous judgment will not be far behind.

Let’s only use our tongue (verbal and digital) to bless, not curse, by using God’s wisdom. As we do, He takes care of blessing us according to His perfect will and time ■

## THE 2019 SING! WORSHIP CONFERENCE

Last August 18 to 21, I was given the one-of-a-kind opportunity to travel to Music City, Nashville, Tennessee, to attend the worship and music conference organized by the team of modern hymn writers led by Keith and Kristyn Getty. I have attended very few worship and music conferences of this caliber and scope, but I can confidently say that Sing! has that unique focus of teaching and developing congregational singing in churches worldwide. In 2019, the theme focused on “The Life Of Christ”, which identified the crucial need to include songs about the Gospel even in the context of congregational singing. There were plenary sessions specific to the birth, public ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—alongside unforgettably meaningful congregational singing to already well-loved hymns by GCF: “In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found)”, “The Power Of The Cross,” “The Lord is My Salvation,” “His Mercy is More,” “He Will Hold Me Fast,” etc.

Through the solid support of leadership, this opportunity was truly God’s gift by the church to me. The stellar lineup of speakers, church musicians, and even the added blessing of joining the conference choir were already more than priceless. However, our extended stay in the US to finally see friends and family after all these years have just left me with a greater

loss for words. I want to publicly appreciate the Worship+ team, especially the staff, who embraced this month-long rest for my family while they continued in their labor of love for the Lord.

With the limitations of even a 400-word writeup, I simply want to encourage and challenge us as a church family to keep welcoming and embracing the crucial importance of singing together—especially when we are here, together. This 2020, I hope and pray that we look forward to more Saturdays and Sundays of “musically fellowshipping as the body of Christ” through the time of congregational singing during our worship gatherings, the “Christmas Musicale,” the “Easter Musicale,” and our much closer anniversary celebration. May these times to freely gather excite us most of all to open God’s Word, to be with family and pray as a community—but also, to worship the Lord with one voice and a song in our hearts.

## CELEBRATING 42 YEARS

As early as now, let us look forward to celebrating yet another milestone of God’s faithfulness on the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of GCF Ortigas. This year’s Anniversary Services are on February 8 (Sat) at 5:00 p.m., and February 9 (Sun) at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (two services only). A blessed 2020, church family! ■

# Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



## READING THE BIBLE MISSIONALLY

*In celebration of the Year of the Bible, to educate and inspire people the world over to study, learn, and engage with the Word of God*

Speaker: Pastor Lloyd Estrada  
January 18 (Sat), 1:00-4:00 p.m. Please RSVP through 0932 371 3457 or at the info booth.



## GCF 42<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please take note of service schedules:  
February 8 (Sat), 5:00 p.m.  
February 9 (Sun), 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.  
*(two services only on Sunday)*



## #PARENTSTALK

*Year-long Midweek Series on Parenting*  
February topic: **Active Family Discipling**  
Speaker: Pastor Lloyd Estrada  
February 5 (Wed), 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. Open to everyone.



## WETFOOT

*Partner with God's cross-cultural kingdom building through short-term missions*  
GCF's Wetfoot Ministry is accepting applications for this year's short-term mission trip/s. Please inquire at the ministry information booth.



## JOB OPPORTUNITY AT GCF

We are looking for **one (1) building engineer** to join our full-time staff here at Greenhills Christian Fellowship. For other application information and complete job description, please email [gcfhr@gcf.org.ph](mailto:gcfhr@gcf.org.ph).

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His grace and mercy by the Valera family and Crosslight Medical Clinic. Please call 8632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.*

## Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

### Growth Group Express (GGEx)

*Mixed group*  
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Rm. B124 (GG Center)

### Sunflowers Growth Group

*Group for women*  
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Rm. B506

### Burning Hearts Chronicles Growth Group

*Group for couples*  
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon  
Rm. B123

### Jars of Clay Growth Group

*Group for women*  
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Rm. B512

### Best Together in Christ

*Group for couples*  
Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Rm. B508

### Sowers 2

*Mixed group*  
Sundays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 nn.  
Rm. B514

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 779 1549.*

## DMG Leaders' Assembly

Topic: Missions Education  
February 29 (Sat), 4-6 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT / January 2020

JANUARY	Projected	Rcvd., Jan. 1-8	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Jan. 8
General Funds	9,073,774	2,239,687	General Funds	9,073,774	2,239,687
Mission Support Fund	1,121,081	202,601	Mission Support Fund	1,121,081	202,601
Others (Designated, etc.)	841,254	95,891	Others (Designated, etc.)	841,254	95,891
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,036,109</b>	<b>2,538,179</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,036,109</b>	<b>2,538,179</b>

*"Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!...Those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!"*

—Matthew 5:6,10 GNT

The chaos of life so easily pulls us in all directions. A new year has begun, and usually we associate this time for a good start. But with just a week in, there came floods and extensive fires ravaging both wildlife and communities. And political tensions arise as world powers exchange bullets and missiles with each other. Locally, we have authorities misusing and abusing their political power and influence, leaving the poor and helpless as victims and casualties.

As Christ's disciples, where do we find our place in all this? We hold on to the sure hope of eternal life, that our deliverance from all these troubles is guaranteed. After all, we are receiving God's kingdom, why care for the affairs such as these? What does Jesus have to do with it? But the present is too real to ignore, it affects us and these times bids us to ask: How should we follow Jesus now? What does God require of us?

Jesus' gospel message comes a call to allegiance. In a sense, the gospel of

Jesus is political; the politics of Jesus and His kingdom however does not concern the affairs of this world. It is about the affairs of God: bringing life, love, peace, justice and kindness. It affects other people's lives and relationships. Jesus' politics is about the present reality of God's kingdom and God's rule over all creation. Jesus is king of both heaven and earth.

As we grow in our discipleship journey, we see that the kingdom Jesus preached continues to arrive in our reality, in our own place and time, healing lives, bringing wholeness and harmony to all. It is a kingdom of love and justice that is stronger than any forces of evil that seems to rule the land.

As we are being transformed into Jesus' likeness, the Spirit leads us out from an isolated and private spirituality into the community of faith. We move from that simple gathering around the name of Jesus into living out His way.

Let us make every effort, then, to desire God's righteousness as we look for opportunities to stand by and stand with the weak and broken. Let us find our place in the heart of God, knowing that He rules above the chaos. As we do so, may we be quick to extend the same grace through the kind of strength and love Jesus showed: touching the untouchable lepers, forgiving the unforgivable adulteress, and sharing the table with sinners ■

## PRAYER at the Chapel

**The GCF Hour of Prayer**  
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

**Midweek Prayer Service**  
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Weeknight Prayer Gatherings**  
Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

**ON THE COVER:** A phone home screen featuring popular social media apps such as Facebook, Messenger, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Hangouts (photo from user Marten Bjork, unsplash.com).



**Greenhills Christian Fellowship**  
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1354 to 56, (02) 8635 0082 to 83

☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

✉ email@gcf.org.ph 🌐 gcf.org.ph 📍 Greenhills Christian Fellowship

How may we  
**SERVE YOU BETTER?**

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth.

Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord for the first time today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**  
(Specify age group: \_\_\_\_\_)  
(Specify group composition: \_\_\_\_\_)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Landline no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: **11/12 January 2020**

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

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Consent to use your information:

*By affixing your signature below, you give permission to Greenhills Christian Fellowship to store and use the information you provided above for the sole purpose of contacting you and updating you about any inquiry you have made.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your signature

# God's Way to Heaven

## THE GOSPEL

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”  
*(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).*

## THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

**God is holy and righteous:** “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” *(Isaiah 6:3)*. **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” *(1 Peter 1:16)*.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

**Man is sinful:** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” *(Romans 3:23)*.  
**Sin demands a penalty:** “For the wages of sin is death” *(Romans 6:23)*.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

**Christ is the expression of God's love for us:** “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” *(Romans 5:8)*. **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” *(1 Peter 3:18)*. **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them” *(2 Corinthians 5:18)*.

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

**Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior:** “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” *(Romans 10:9)*.

**PRAYER:** *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

## Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.