

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

WHEN FAITH FINDS ITS VOICE

SERIES

REAL FAITH COSTS

DATE

8/16/2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

James 3:1-12

SYNOPSIS

What comes out of your mouth — and what you rehearse before it ever does — reveals what's really going on inside.

HIGHLIGHTS



BIG IDEA

Last week was about what faith does. This week is about what faith sounds like.

Your mouth is the readout of your heart.

"Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check." (James 3:2)

Notes:

YOUR WORDS CARRY FARTHER THAN YOU THINK

Teaching isn't a harder bar to clear — it's a bigger platform.

To whom much is given, much is required.

"Not many of you should become teachers... because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly." (James 3:1)

Notes:

SMALL THING. BIG STEERING.

A bit in a horse's mouth. A rudder on a ship. Small enough to miss — big enough to steer everything.

"They are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go." (James 3:4-5a)

Notes:

ONE SENTENCE CAN DO MORE DAMAGE THAN YOU THINK

Sticks and stones heal. Words don't always.

"The tongue has the power of life and death." (Proverbs 18:21)

Notes:



NO ONE HAS EVER TAMED THE TONGUE

We've tamed lions. We haven't tamed ourselves. Willpower was never the plan.

What you rehearse shapes you — even when no one's listening.

"No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." (James 3:8)

Notes:

YOU CAN'T CURSE WHAT GOD MADE AND CALL IT WORSHIP

Cursing isn't about tone. It's about verdict — deciding someone is done.

That person still wears God's image.

"With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness." (James 3:9)

Notes:

WHAT COMES OUT TELLS YOU WHAT'S IN

A spring can't produce two kinds of water. Neither can you.

Change what's in the ground. The fruit takes care of itself.

"Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?" (James 3:11)

Notes:

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Where does your mouth — or your mind, before it ever gets there — reveal what's really going on inside?

Ask God to guard the door, not just the exit.

"Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips." (Psalm 141:3)

Notes:
