THE QUESTION

Did early Christians think the tongue truly cannot be tamed (James 3:8)?

Asked by a THF member on May 28, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 9 numbered quotations · the 19 early Christian passages and 175 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/did-early-christians-think-the-tongue-truly-cannot-be-tamed-james-3-8

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

These passages do not comment on James 3:8 directly, but the early writers never treated the tongue as hopeless. They told every Christian to bridle it, avoid evil-speaking and double talk, and guard the heart it comes from. They expected people who sinned with the tongue to repent, control themselves and find mercy.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 6

They agreed the tongue can carry poison

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian uses the same picture James uses. He describes false teachers whose speech spreads like a cancer and pours deadly poison into the hearts of hearers. The danger of the tongue was taken seriously.

1 “The Holy Spirit points them out in the Psalms as sitting in the seat of pestilence, as plagues and stains on the faith, deceiving with a serpent's tongue, and skillful in corrupting the truth, pouring out deadly poisons from pestilential tongues. Their speech spreads like a cancer, and their talk forms deadly poison in the heart and breast of each person.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* **Source 14, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 6

Yet believers are told to bridle the tongue

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Commodianus gives short commands for daily life. He tells the Christian to bridle the tongue and to keep it from cursing, since the same tongue is used to worship the Lord. He treats this as something a believer can and must do.

2 “Bridle the tongue. You ought to make yourself humble.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Commodianus,** *Writings* **Source 16, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–300 AD)
THF's updated English

3 “Restrain your tongue from cursing, because with it you adore the Lord.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Commodianus,** *Writings* **Source 17, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–300 AD)
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 6

Guarding speech was basic Christian teaching

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache and the Apostolic Constitutions list speech rules among the first lessons for believers. Christians must not speak evil or be double-tongued, and they will give an account for idle words.

4 “You shall not be double-minded or double-tongued, for to be double-tongued is a snare of death. Your speech shall not be false or empty, but fulfilled by deed.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 2 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

5 “Your words shall not be empty, for you shall give an account for every idle word, Matthew 12:36”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 15, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 6

Speak sparingly, as in God's hearing

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Gregory Thaumaturgus advises using the tongue sparingly and keeping the heart calm while speaking. He reminds readers that every word is spoken in God's hearing.

6 “Moreover, it is good to use the tongue sparingly, and to keep the heart calm and properly balanced when speaking.”

later in the same passage

“Instead, we should know and consider that, although we are far removed from heaven, we speak in God's hearing, and it is good for us to speak without giving offense.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *Metaphrase of Ecclesiastes* 5 (c. 240–270 AD) **Source 13, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 5 OF 6

Taming the tongue starts in the heart

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Origen says sinful words begin as evil thoughts in the heart. If those thoughts are held back and not spoken, they fade, so each person must watch his own heart. Elsewhere he says the lips should be ruled by understanding.

7 “The spring and source of every sin, then, is evil thoughts. For unless these gained control, neither murders nor adulteries nor any other such thing would exist. Therefore, each man must keep his own heart with all watchfulness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 11 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 10, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 “Rather, we are defiled when our lips, though they ought to be controlled by understanding and weighed with what we may call a balance and measure, Sirach 28:25, speak carelessly and discuss matters we ought not to discuss.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Commentary on Matthew* 11 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 11, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 6

There is mercy for a careless tongue

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

In Hermas, a woman who did not control her tongue is promised that, when she hears God's word, she will control herself and receive mercy. Change was seen as possible through repentance and God's word.

9 “For she does not control her tongue, and with it she commits iniquity. But when she hears these words, she will control herself and will receive mercy.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 3, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- None of these passages explains James 3:8 line by line, so we cannot say how they read that exact verse.
- They do not say whether full control of the tongue is reached in this life.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 19 early Christian passages and 175 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–19, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 20–105, in Bible order), then 89 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *19 passages from 12 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 2 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "shall not be double-minded nor double-tongued; for to be double-tongued is a snare of death… [continues online] **read ›**

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 3) "of things incorruptible, how much more of those which are corruptible! Do not be hasty with your tongue, for the mouth is a snare of death. As far as possible… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 3*

3 *Shepherd* (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 4** "on hearing these words, she will control herself, and will obtain mercy… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 4–5*

4 *Epistle to the Trallians* (1885 English; on point 1) "they intermix the poison of their deceit with their persuasive talk, as if they mingled aconite with sweet wine, that so he who drinks, being deceived in his taste by… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistle to the Trallians* (on point 1) "with their own poison, speaking things that are unworthy of belief, like those who administer a deadly drug in sweet wine, which he who is ignorant of takes eagerly, with… [continues online] **read ›**

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Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 6–7*

6 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English; on point 3) “thy tongue from evil, and thy lips that they speak no guile… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Against Heresies: Book I* (1885 English; on point 1) “thus they destroy multitudes, wickedly disseminating their own doctrines by the use of a good name, and, through means of its sweetness and beauty, extending to their hearers the bitter… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · source 8*

8 *Stromata* 4.6 mouth, but they curse in their heart. They loved Him with their mouth, and lied to Him with their tongue; but their heart was not right with Him, and they… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 9–12*

9 *Commentary on John* 6 (on point 1) as hypocrites to John's baptism. And it does not escape the Baptist's notice that they have the poison of vipers under their tongue, and the poison of asps… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Commentary on Matthew* 11 (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “the same also you will say about the elders and deacons… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Commentary on Matthew* 11 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “it is indeed becoming to the law of God to forbid those things which arise from wickedness, and to enjoin those things which tend to virtue, but as for things… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Against Celsus* 54 (1885 English; on point 3) “your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking guile… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · source 13*

13 *Metaphrase of Ecclesiastes* 5 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** “it is a good thing to use the tongue sparingly, and to keep a calm and rightly balanced heart in the exercise of speech… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · source 14*

14 *Treatises* **Quote 1, page 2** “the faith, deceiving with a serpent's tongue, and skillful in corrupting the truth, pouring out deadly poisons from pestilential tongues. Their speech spreads like a cancer, and their talk… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · source 15*

15 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “shall you be mindful of injuries; for the ways of those that remember injuries are unto death… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · sources 16–17*

16 *Writings* **Quote 2, page 2** “Bridle the tongue. You ought to make yourself humble… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Writings* **Quote 3, page 2** “your tongue from cursing, because with it you adore the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *sources 18–19*

18 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 3) “thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* their heart.” And again it says, “They loved Him with their mouth, and lied to Him with their tongue; but their heart was not right with Him, nor were they… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *86 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

20 **Deuteronomy 32:33** Their wine is the wrath of dragons, and the incurable wrath of cobras. **read ›**

21 **Job 8:14** For his house shall be without inhabitants, and his tent shall turn out to be a spider’s web. **read ›**

22 **Job 20:14** and he shall never be able to help himself; the bile of a cobra is in his belly. **read ›**

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23 **Job 20:16** And may he suck the venom of dragons, and may the tongue of a serpent slay him. **read ›**

24 **Psalms 34:13** Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. (Septuagint Psalm 33:14 (Psalm 34:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

25 **Psalms 52:4** You have loved all words that swallow up, a deceitful tongue. (Septuagint Psalm 51:6 (Psalm 52:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

26 **Psalms 58:4** Their wrath is like that of a serpent, like a deaf cobra that stops its ears, (Septuagint Psalm 57:5 (Psalm 58:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

27 **Psalms 140:3** They have sharpened their tongue like a serpent's; the poison of cobras is under their lips. Pause. (Septuagint Psalm 139:4 (Psalm 140:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

28 **Proverbs 15:4** The healing of the tongue is a tree of life, and he who keeps it shall be filled with spirit. **read ›**

29 **Proverbs 17:20** and the hard-hearted man does not meet with good things. A man of changeable tongue will fall into evils, **read ›**

30 **Proverbs 21:23** He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from trouble. **read ›**

31 **Proverbs 23:32** But in the end he stretches out like one struck by a serpent, and the venom spreads through him as from a horned viper. **read ›**

32 **Isaiah 2:20** For in that day a man shall cast away his abominations of silver and gold, which they made to worship worthless things and bats, **read ›**

33 **Isaiah 7:17** But God will bring upon you and upon your people and upon the house of your father days that have not yet come since the day that Ephraim took away from Judah the king of the Assyrians." **read ›**

34 **Isaiah 13:3** I am giving command, and I bring them; giants are coming to fulfill my wrath, rejoicing and insulting together. **read ›**

35 **Isaiah 13:5** to come from a land far away, from the farthest foundation of heaven, the Lord and his armed fighters, to destroy the whole world. **read ›**

36 **Jeremiah 8:17** For behold, I am sending among you deadly serpents, which cannot be charmed, and they will bite you **read ›**

37 **Jeremiah 31:9** They went out with weeping, and with comfort I will bring them back, making them stay by channels of water on a straight road, and they shall by no means go astray on it; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:9 (Jeremiah 31:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

38 **Jeremiah 33:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

39 **Jeremiah 36:30** Therefore thus said the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: He shall have no one sitting on the throne of David, and his carcass shall be cast out in the heat of the day and in the frost of the night; (Septuagint Jeremiah 43:30 (Jeremiah 36:30 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

40 **Jeremiah 49:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

41 **Jeremiah 51:4** And the slain will fall in the land of the Chaldeans, and those pierced through, outside her. (Septuagint Jeremiah 28:4 (Jeremiah 51:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

42 **Ezekiel 5:2** A fourth part you shall burn in the fire in the midst of the city at the fulfillment of the days of the siege; and you shall take a fourth part and burn it up in its midst; and a fourth part you shall cut down with the sword all around it; and a fourth part you shall scatter to the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them. **read ›**

43 **Ezekiel 15:3** Will they take wood from it to make it into anything for work? Will they take a peg from it to hang any vessel on it? **read ›**

44 **Ezekiel 20:12** And I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them. **read ›**

45 **Ezekiel 20:14** But I acted so that my name should not be profaned at all before the Gentiles, before whose eyes I brought them out. **read ›**

46 **Ezekiel 20:16** because they rejected my ordinances, and did not walk in my statutes, and profaned my Sabbaths, and went after the imaginations of their heart. **read ›**

47 **Daniel 6:2** and over them three officers, of whom Daniel was one, so that the satraps might give account to them, and the king might not be troubled. (Septuagint Daniel 6:3 (Daniel 6:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

48 **Daniel 11:13** And the king of the north shall return and bring a multitude greater than the first; and at the end of the times of years an invasion shall come with a great army and with many possessions. **read ›**

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49 **Daniel 11:15** And the king of the north shall come in and heap up a siege mound and capture fortified cities; and the arms of the king of the south shall stand, and his chosen ones shall rise up, and there shall be no strength to stand. **read ›**

50 **Hosea 5:5** And the arrogance of Israel shall be humbled before his face; and Israel and Ephraim shall be weak in their unrighteousness, and Judah also shall be weak with them. **read ›**

51 **Amos 1:11** Thus says the Lord: For three ungodly deeds of Idumea, and for four, I will not turn away from them, because they pursued their brother with the sword, and he destroyed the mother upon the earth, and seized his trembling for a testimony, and kept his onrush forever. **read ›**

52 **Amos 4:3** and you shall be brought out naked, each in front of the other, and you shall be cast out on the mountain Rimmon, says the Lord. **read ›**

53 **Nahum 2:7** and the foundation has been uncovered; and she went up, and her female slaves were led away like doves moaning in their hearts. (Septuagint Nahum 2:8 (Nahum 2:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

54 **Judith 8:14** For you will not find the depth of the heart of a man, nor will you grasp the thoughts of his mind; how then will you search out God, who made all these things, and know his mind, and understand his purpose? No, brothers, do not provoke the Lord our God to anger. **read ›**

55 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:11** Beware, then, of useless grumbling, and keep your tongue from slander; for no secret word goes out empty, and a lying mouth slays the soul. **read ›**

56 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:16** But the ungodly summoned death to themselves by their hands and their words; thinking him a friend, they wasted away, and they made an agreement with him, because they are fit to belong to his side. **read ›**

57 **Wisdom of Solomon 4:3** But the prolific brood of the ungodly will be of no use; from illegitimate cuttings it will not strike deep root, nor set a firm foundation. **read ›**

58 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:18** or newly created, unknown beasts full of wrath, either breathing out a fiery blast, or scattering a stench of smoke, or flashing terrible sparks from their eyes, **read ›**

59 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:19** whose harm could not only have crushed them utterly, but whose very sight could have destroyed them with terror. **read ›**

60 **Wisdom of Solomon 14:26** disturbance of the good, forgetfulness of favors, defilement of souls, confusion of sex, disorder in marriage, adultery, and shameless conduct. **read ›**

61 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:24** For wisdom will be known by speech, and instruction by the word of the tongue. **read ›**

62 **Wisdom of Sirach 4:29** Do not be harsh with your tongue, or sluggish and slack in your works. **read ›**

63 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:13** Glory and dishonor are in speaking, and a man’s tongue is his downfall. **read ›**

64 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:14** Do not be called a gossip, and do not lie in ambush with your tongue; for shame is upon the thief, and an evil condemnation upon the double-tongued. **read ›**

65 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:3** Do not quarrel with a talkative man, and do not heap wood on his fire. **read ›**

66 **Wisdom of Sirach 9:18** A talkative man is feared in his city, and he who is rash in his speech will be hated. **read ›**

67 **Wisdom of Sirach 14:1** Blessed is the man who has not slipped with his mouth, and is not stung by sorrow for sin. **read ›**

68 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:16** There is one who slips, but not from the soul; and who has not sinned with his tongue? **read ›**

69 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:1** There is a rebuke that is not fitting, and there is one who keeps silent, and he is of sound judgment. **read ›**

70 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:6** There is one who keeps silent because he has no answer, and there is one who keeps silent, knowing the right time. **read ›**

71 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:24** A lie is an evil blot on a man; it will be continually in the mouth of the untaught. **read ›**

72 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:7** Hear, O children, the discipline of the mouth; he who keeps it will never be caught by his lips. **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:13** Do not accustom your mouth to coarse vulgarity, for in it is the word of sin. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:7** An evil wife is an ox yoke that slips about; he who takes hold of her is like one who grasps a scorpion. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:30** Wrath and anger, these too are abominations, and a sinful man will hold fast to them. **read ›**

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76 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:14** A third tongue has shaken many, and driven them from nation to nation; it has pulled down strong cities, and overthrown the houses of nobles. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:17** The blow of a whip makes welts, but the blow of the tongue will break bones. **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:21** Its death is an evil death, and Hades is better than it. **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Sirach 35:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 37:18** four kinds of things spring up, good and evil, life and death, and it is the tongue that continually rules over them. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:30** the teeth of wild beasts, and scorpions, and vipers, and a sword taking vengeance on the ungodly to destruction; **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:5** wrath and jealousy and trouble and unrest, and fear of death, and resentment and quarreling; and in the time of rest upon the bed the sleep of night alters his knowledge. **read ›**

83 **Wisdom of Sirach 51:5** from the depth of the belly of Hades, from an unclean tongue and a lying word— **read ›**

84 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:8** For their tongue is polished by a craftsman, and they themselves are overlaid with gold and with silver; but they are false and cannot speak. **read ›**

85 **4 Maccabees 2:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

86 **4 Maccabees 7:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

87 **4 Maccabees 13:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

88 **4 Maccabees 13:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

89 **4 Maccabees 18:22** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

90 **1 Enoch 98:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

91 **Acts 26:15** I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **read ›**

92 **Romans 3:13** Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have dealt deceitfully; the poison of cobras is under their lips; **read ›**

93 **Romans 8:17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him. **read ›**

94 **Romans 9:7** Nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s seed. But, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” **read ›**

95 **Galatians 1:8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach to you a gospel other than what we preached to you, let him be cursed. **read ›**

96 **James 1:26** If anyone among you thinks himself to be religious while he does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his heart, this man’s religion is worthless. **read ›**

97 **James 3:2** For we all stumble in many things. Anyone who does not stumble in word is a perfect person, able to bridle the whole body also. **read ›**

98 **James 3:3** Look, we put bits into horses’ mouths so that they obey us, and we guide their whole body. **read ›**

99 **James 3:5** So the tongue is also a little member, and boasts great things. See how large a forest a small fire sets ablaze! **read ›**

100 **James 3:6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. Thus the tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting the course of life on fire, and itself set on fire by hell. **read ›**

101 **James 3:7** For every kind of animal, bird, creeping thing, and sea creature is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind; **read ›**

102 **James 3:8** but no human being can tame the tongue—an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison. **read ›**

103 **James 3:9** With it we bless God the Father, and with it we curse people who have been made in the likeness of God. **read ›**

104 **James 3:10** Out of the same mouth comes blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. **read ›**

105 **1 Peter 3:10** For the one who desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. **read ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *89 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Exodus 20:7

Deuteronomy 22:10 · 26:18

1 Kings 18:33

Psalms 12:2 · 12:3 · 34:11 · 34:14 · 78:36

Proverbs 1:33 · 4:23 · 14:8

Isaiah 29:13

Hosea 7:2

Malachi 4:5

Matthew 3:7 · 5:4 · 5:5 · 5:8 · 5:42 · 6:1 · 6:19 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 7:13 · 7:21 · 9:13 · 10:33 · 10:39 · 10:41 · 12:7 · 12:31 · 15:8 · 15:11 · 15:18 · 15:20 · 16:26 · 18:22 · 27:32

Mark 1:8 · 7:6 · 7:19 · 8:36 · 14:71

Luke 6:30 · 12:20 · 12:22 · 12:30 · 12:33 · 13:32 · 14:26 · 18:10 · 19:8

John 2:13 · 8:39 · 12:25 · 12:28

Acts 15:20

Romans 2:4 · 2:15 · 2:25 · 8:29 · 9:15 · 14:23

1 Corinthians 1:23 · 8:8 · 10:24 · 10:31 · 12:28 · 13:5

2 Corinthians 8:12

Galatians 1:4 · 2:17

Ephesians 5:16 · 6:9

Colossians 2:16 · 3:5

2 Thessalonians 2:3

1 Timothy 3:1 · 6:7 · 6:20

2 Timothy 3:2

Titus 1:15

Hebrews 9:14 · 10:1

James 1:8 · 1:12 · 4:11

Revelation 3:12

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Did early Christians think the tongue truly cannot be tamed (James 3:8)?” on May 28, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY