**Authentic** *(Series Graphic)*

**Bench Test of the Believer**—James 1:1-18

**The Perfect Mirror**—James 1:19-27

**Me? Prejudice?** —James 2:1-13

**Dying Faith** –James 2:14-26

**One Small Spark**

(James 3:2)

“We all **stumble** in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they **say** is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.”

(Proverbs 18:21)

“The tongue has the power of **life** and **death**.”

(James 3:3-6)

“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships for an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go**. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts**. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a **small spark**. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”

1. The tongue is **disproportionately** powerful.

(James 3:7-8)

“All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but **no human being can tame the tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”

(Isaiah 6:1)

“I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.”

(Isaiah 6:5)

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! **For I am a man of unclean lips**, and I live among people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

(Isaiah 6:6-7)

“Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my **mouth** and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your **guilt** is taken away and your **sin** atoned for.”

1. Your tongue needs **redeemed**.

(James 3:9-12)

“With the tongue **we praise our Lord** and Father, and with it **we curse human beings**, who have been **made in God’s likeness**. Out of the same mouth come **praise and cursing**. My brothers and sisters, this should **not** be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

1. If you wouldn’t talk to **God** that way, you shouldn’t talk to **people** that way.

**Words cost**.

(Matthew 12:36-37)

“But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgement for every empty word they have spoken. For by your **words** you will be **acquitted**, and by your **words** you will be **condemned**.”

**Words cost.**

**Words cut.**

(Proverbs 12:18)

“The words of the reckless **piece** like swords.”

(Proverbs 26:18-19)  
“Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who deceives their neighbor and says, “I was **only joking**!”

**Words cost.**

**Words cut.**

**Words are consequential.**