

# James 3:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

## Analysis

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**Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.** Great ships, driven by fierce winds, are turned by a very small rudder (pedalion, πηδάλιον) wherever the pilot wills. External pressures (winds) do not determine direction; the rudder does. So the tongue amidst trials determines course.

Reformed perseverance teaches that while believers face storms, Spirit-controlled speech steers them toward perseverance. James aims to shift focus from circumstances to the heart's rudder.

## Historical Context

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Diaspora believers traveled by sea; shipping analogies were common. Early churches faced slander winds; James taught them to respond with controlled tongues rather than letting pressure dictate ungodly speech.",

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What 'winds' tempt you to lose control of your tongue?
2. How can you keep Christ as pilot of your speech under pressure?
3. Who is influenced by your words during storms?

## Interlinear Text

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ἰδοὺ,	καὶ	τὰ	πλοῖα	τηλικάυτα	ὄντα	καὶ	ὕπὸ
<b>Behold</b>	<b>also</b>	G3588	<b>the ships</b>	<b>so great</b>	<b>which though they be</b>	<b>also</b>	<b>of</b>
G2400	G2532		G4143	G5082	G5607	G2532	G5259
σκληρῶν	ἀνέμων	ἐλαυνόμενα	μετάγεται	ὕπὸ			
<b>fierce</b>	<b>winds</b>	<b>are driven</b>	<b>yet are they turned about</b>	<b>of</b>			
G4642	G417	G1643	G3329	G5259			
ἐλαχίστου	πηδαλίου	ὅπου	ἂν	ἡ	ὁρμὴ	τοῦ	
<b>a very small</b>	<b>helm</b>	<b>whithersoever</b>	G302	G3588	<b>listeth</b>	G3588	
G1646	G4079	G3699			G3730		
εὐθύνοντος	βούληται						
<b>the governor</b>	G1014						
G2116							

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