

# Psalms 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?

## Analysis

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The wicked claim autonomy: 'our lips are our own—who is lord over us?' This is the essence of human rebellion—asserting self-sovereignty. The Hebrew 'adon' (lord/master) indicates ownership and authority. This anticipates Romans 1's description of exchanging truth for a lie and refusing to acknowledge God (Romans 1:25, 28). Reformed theology identifies this as the root sin: autonomy replacing theonomy.

## Historical Context

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Reflects the attitude of powerful figures in Israel who used their position and eloquence for self-advancement, denying accountability to God or king.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. In what areas of life do you subtly claim 'no one is lord over me'?
2. How does acknowledging God's lordship transform your use of words?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲשֶׁר	אָמַר וְ	לְלִשְׁנֵנוּ	נִגְבִּיר	שְׁפִיתֵינוּ	אֶת־נוֹ
H834	Who have said	With our tongue	will we prevail	our lips	H853
	H559	H3956	H1396	H8193	
הֵן	אֲדֹנָיִם	לָנוּ:			
H4310	are our own who is lord	H0			
	H113				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 5:2** (References Lord): And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

**2 Thessalonians 2:4** (Parallel theme): Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

**Jeremiah 2:31** (References Lord): O generation, see ye the word of the LORD. Have I been a wilderness unto Israel? a land of darkness? wherefore say my people, We are lords; we will come no more unto thee?

**Jeremiah 18:18** (Parallel theme): Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.