

A person wearing a blue suit jacket is shown from the back. Their hands are behind their back, with fingers crossed. A yellow sticky note is on the back of the jacket. A black box with white text is overlaid on the image.

Fingers
Crossed
(behind my
back)

Oaths (of all types) are **necessitated**
by the recognition of mankind's basic
dishonesty.

***JAMES* re: speech**

1:26 – bridle your tongue

2:12 – speech/words will be judged

3:2-12 – our tongues are lit up by hell's fire!

4:11 – our speech betrays an arrogance

that thinks it is superior to God's law

The Bible contains many instances of godly people using oaths. Sometimes oaths were required by God and given by God. This acknowledgment to depravity is never presented as the “norm” or the Christian ethic.

What is the burden behind James' statement... *“Do not swear, by heaven or earth or anything else”*?

“...anything else” means OTHER THAN GOD. **Nothing else** is the source of TRUTH. So anything else used to leverage our truthfulness is **insulting** to God.

“Let your YES be YES” means that you do anything necessary to **fulfill** the vow.

This can only mean absolute **seriousness**
and **determination**

On the part of a Christian, any oath taken is unnecessary. They become counter productive!

For the Christian, oaths should **not** be part of **normal** expression or conversation.

To “swear” in order to be trusted
makes it seem like you cannot be
trusted if you do not swear. This
destroys **credibility** and **testimony**.

Therefore, each of you must
put off falsehood and speak truthfully
to his neighbor. (*Eph. 4:25*)

For we cannot do anything against
the truth, but only for the truth!

(11 Cor. 13:8)