Grow Group Study

The Epistle (Letter) of James – Chapter 3

# Chapter 3 - The Characteristics of Faith (con’t)

# I. Faith Controls the Tongue

**1.** When the Bible refers to the tongue, it’s referring to our speech.

**a. Vs.1-2** Cautions us about becoming teachers of God's word. Why do you think teachers will receive a stricter judgment?

**b.** What does it mean to stumble in words?

**2.** **Vs.3-5** Make the comparison of a horse’s bit, ship’s rudder and small flame in relation to our words.

**a.**  Look at the each verse and comment on what the tongue is capable of:

* **Proverbs 6:2** “You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth.”
* **Proverbs 10:19** “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips *is* wise.”
* **Proverbs 12:18** “There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.”
* **Proverbs 15:2** “The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.”
* **Proverbs 18:21** “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”

**3.** **Vs.6** says, "the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity... it defiles our whole body and sets on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire by hell” *(Gehenna - A continually burning garbage dump outside Jerusalem.)*

**a.** What do you suppose James is referring to?

4. **Vs.7-8** claims that, "No man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."

**a.** Why is the tongue so hard to control?

**b.** When is it the hardest for you to control your tongue?

* Perhaps this is why James says in **James 1:19**, *"let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."*
* **Proverbs 17:27** “He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.”
* **Proverbs 21:23** “Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.”

**5.** **Read Mt.12:35-37** > By reading this portion of scripture, we get a better idea of what James is trying to teach us and why.

**a.** **Vs.9-11** To curse means to speak words that block the life of God. (Death - Pr.18:21)

To bless means to speak words that release the life of God. (Life - Pr.18:21)

**b.** Give examples of cursing people and blessing people.

**c.** **Read** **Eph.4:29 T.H.I.N.K.** before speaking:

* Ask yourself, “Is what I’m about to say **T**rue, **H**elpful, **I**nspiring, **N**ecessary & **K**ind?”

**6.** **Vs 12** makes a correlation between a tree and its fruit, and a spring and its water.

**a.** How do these analogies relate to our words and our heart?

**b.** Where does controlling our tongue start? Describe the heart and how we change it.

# II. Faith Produces Wisdom

**1.** **Vs.13-16** Describe earthly, sensual & demonic wisdom

**2.** **Vs.17-18** Describe Godly wisdom

**a.** How does our faith release the wisdom of God?

* **Proverbs 15:2** *“The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.”*