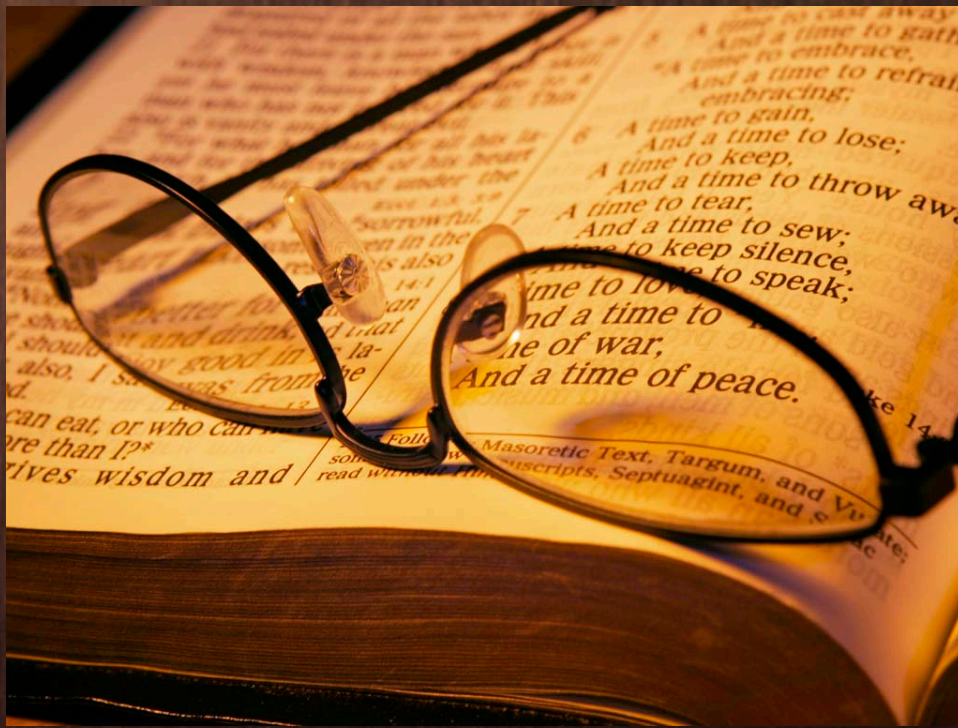


Be Ye Doers of the Word



*Thoughts
on the
Book
of
JAMES*

Radical & Different
Faith & Works
Rules & Regulations
Effectual & Fervent
Bitter & Sweet



James 3:5-6 NLT

- 5) So also, the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. **A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.**
- 6) And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness that can ruin your whole life. It can turn the entire course of your life into a blazing flame of destruction, for it is set on fire by hell itself.



James 1:19-20 NIV

- 19) My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, **slow to speak** and slow to become angry,
- 20) for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.



James 1:26 KJV

26) If any man among you seem to be religious, and **bridleth not his tongue**, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.



James 2:12 NIV

12) **Speak** and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom



James 4:11 KJV

11) **Speak not evil** one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of *his* brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.



James 5:9 NIV

- 9) Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!



James 5:12 NIV

12) Above all, my brothers, **do not swear** - not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned.



Test of Living Faith

- True Faith is demonstrated by your speech
- Transformation of the Disciple of Christ shows up in the way we talk
- Living Faith shows itself in the control of the tongue



Why Personification?

- Why not blame the real root of the problem?
- The distinction between the man and the guilty member is not clearly distinguished in Hebrew thought
- James understands that the tongue is the organ that the heart uses to express itself



Controlling the Tongue

- Saying right words do not make you a righteous person
- But, right words are a manifestation of a righteous life
- Controlling the tongue then is essential



1 - Potential to Condemn

- The tongue's potential to condemn us is **GREAT**



James 1:26 KJV

26) If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is vain*.



wicked

deceitful

lying

perverse

filthy

corrupt

bitter

angry

crafty

flattering

slanderous

gossiping

back-biting

blaspheming

foolish

boasting

murmuring

complaining

cursing

contentious

sensual

vile

tale-bearing

whispering

exaggerating

1 - Potential to Condemn

- The tongue's potential to condemn us is **GREAT**
- One of the **EASIEST** ways to sin is with your **TONGUE**
- You can say **ANYTHING** at **ANY TIME**



2 - Power to Control

- Not only does the tongue have a great potential to condemn us, but it has an incredible **POWER TO CONTROL US**



James 3:2 NIV

- 2) We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.
- If you can master your tongue, then you can master the evil tendencies throughout your whole body



Proverbs 21:23 KJV

23) Whoso keepeth his **MOUTH** and his **TONGUE** keepeth his soul from troubles.



James 3:3 KJV

- 3) Behold, we put bits in the horses' **MOUTHS**, that they may obey us; and we turn about their **WHOLE BODY**.
- By controlling the **TONGUE** the **WHOLE LIFE** is directed to a **USEFUL PURPOSE**



Psalm 39:1 KJV

- 1) I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue; **I will keep my mouth with a bridle**, while the wicked is before me.



James 3:4 KJV

- 4) 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.



James 3:4-5 KJV

- 4) 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.
- 5) Even so the tongue is a little member, and **boasteth great things...**
 - It can do **GREAT** things!



2 - Power to Control

- Not only does the tongue have a great potential to condemn us, but it has an incredible **POWER TO CONTROL US**
- The tongue has power to do **GOOD** things and **BAD** things
- If we can **CONTROL** the **TONGUE**, it can control the rest of our bodies



3 - Peril to Corrupt

- Not only does the tongue have the power to control us, but like all power, that power **CORRUPTS**



James 3:5 KJV

- 5) Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!



James 3:5 NIV

- 5) ... Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.



James 3:5-6 NIV

- 5) ... Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.
- 6) The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.



3 - Peril to Corrupt

- Not only does the tongue have the power to control us, but like all power, that power **CORRUPTS**
- It doesn't just want to **CONTROL** us, it actually wants to **RUIN** us!
- It ruins more than just **YOUR** life, but those of **EVERYONE** around you



4 - Prohibitive to Combat

- The tongue is **WILD** and **UNTAMED** and will combat every effort to control it



James 3:7-8 KJV

- 7) For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:
- 8) But the tongue can **no man tame**; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.



4 - Prohibitive to Combat

- The tongue is **WILD** and **UNTAMED** and will combat every effort to control it
- You will **NOT** be successful if you try to tame your tongue on your own
- You **HAVE** to ask God for help!



5 - Propensity to Compromise

- The tongue **WANTS** to speak out of both sides of it's mouth



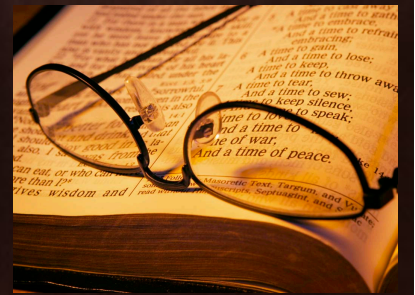
James 3:9 KJV

- 9) Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.



James 3:10 KJV

- 10) Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.



James 3:11 KJV

11) Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?



5 - Propensity to Compromise

- The tongue **WANTS** to speak out of both sides of it's mouth
- But, a clean heart **CAN' T** produce bitter water!



Psalm 35:28 NIV

28) My tongue will speak of your righteousness and of your praises all day long.



Psalm 126:1-3 NIV

- 1) When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed.
- 2) Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said of the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”
- 3) The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.



5 - Propensity to Compromise

- The tongue **WANTS** to speak out of both sides of it's mouth
- But, a clean heart **CAN' T** produce bitter water!
- True believers will be revealed by their speech



5 Reminders

1. Potential to Condemn
 - We are revealed by our mouth
2. Power to Control
 - Control your tongue & you control your body
3. Peril to Corrupt
 - Don't control your tongue & bad things follow
4. Prohibitive to Combat
 - Only GOD can tame your tongue
5. Propensity to Compromise
 - Both bitter & sweet shouldn't come from the same mouth



Bitter & Sweet

