

The Epistle of
James
New Testament Letters Series



Lesson 4- Words of the Tongue and Wisdom

Focus: Ch. 3 v.1-18

1. The power and folly of the tongue (v.1-5)

- a. (v.1) *Teachers of the Laws of God will receive a stricter Judgment. Those who are responsible for leading others must surely take care to be responsible and faithful in their work before God and men. Those who know better will be held accountable for what they did do, but should not have done, and also for what they didn't do but should have done.*
- b. (v.2) *All have their weaknesses and also stumble in many things. None of us are perfect (Romans 3:9,10,23). We are called to be heading in that direction by the grace of God though (Philippians 3:12-14), and in Christ Jesus you can be sure that we will "bear much fruit" (John 15:4,5).*
- c. (v.3-5) *The tongue is a very small thing, but also it is a very powerful thing! The tongue has started more quarrels, wars, and deaths than any other thing. It sets nature on fire and moves the earth. Jesus and the various Bible writers had so many things to say about the Tongue and about our words. Below we may find of number of points to consider about the Tongue and its use. **The words of the tongue start in the heart, mind, and character of the individual and they truly reveal so much about a person.***
 - i. **Jesus taught that we'd be judged even by our words:** "For by your words shall you be condemned...." (Matthew 12:34-36).
 - ii. **Paul says to be pure and sound in our speech (Titus 2:8; Ephesians 4:29).** We should even avoid jesting and joking which bring corruption (Ephesians 5:4). Our words will lead and guide the thoughts of others around us as well, so we should not dare to utter foolish words. We should be careful about our way.
 - iii. **Solomon says, "A talebearer separates friends" (Proverbs 16:28); Do not go with a fool when you perceive there is no wisdom in his mouth (Proverbs 14:7); A talebearer reveals secrets (Proverbs 11:13); "A soft answer turns away wrath, but..." (Proverbs 15:1).**

2. The poison and evil of the Tongue which should never be (v.6-12)

- a. *It seems to be a mystery that the tongue cannot be so easily tamed. We can tame all sorts of wild animals but we cannot seem to get a grasp on the tongue. We are just too quick to say something. **God teaches us the wisdom of holding our tongue (Proverbs 29:11).***
- b. *A spring should be consistent in the kind of water that it allows to come out from itself. Even so, we should be very careful about the kind of things we allow to be in our hearts, and also the kind of things that we would then allow to come out of our own mouths.*

3. True vs. False wisdom and our Character (v.13-18)

- a. *(v.13-16) Envy and self-seeking are not of God at all! We must look towards the things of God and of others. If we are wise then we should be humble and faithful towards God. True wisdom comes from Him, not from man.*
- b. *(v.17,18) God's true Wisdom demonstrates the fruit of God's Spirit (Galatians 5:23). It is full of God mercy, goodness, and truth!*
- c. *To gain the wisdom of God we must simply, ask for it from God and seek it from His word. God's word is filled with all the treasures of wisdom (Proverbs 2:1-6).*

Questions for the Heart:

Will you make it your prayer today to have a tongue that only speaks righteously before God? ____