

# The Book of James

## Faith in Action – Lesson #4

The Book of James is a practical communication from James to especially Jewish Christians. He covers several themes that are applicable to our Christian living: experiencing joy in challenges, increasing in patience and wisdom, making sure our faith is active, and praying to our Lord. In Chapter 3, James considers the challenge of taming the tongue and then expounds on the difference between the wisdom of this earth and wisdom from above.

Review:

1. James begins his section on taming the tongue by talking about those who teach. Why might James talk about teachers first? What do the words of James 2:18-24 tell us about being a good teacher? Why are teachers “judged more strictly”? (James 3:1) Who will be their judge?

2. All of us make mistakes. We are sinners. When it comes to the words that we say, it is impossible for us to never make a mistake. There is only one “perfect man” (James 3:2). He is our only hope to tame the tongue. How do we get that perfection?

3. What do the pictures of James 3 teach us about the tongue/the words that we say?

Bits in the mouths of horses -

Rudders on ships -

Forest fires –

Deadly poison -

Sea water/salt water –

Fruit trees –

4. What do the Scriptures say about the “perfect man,” Jesus, and the words that He used? 1 Peter 2:22-24; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 3:5. How do we get this perfection according to Jesus, (John 15:1-8)?

5. What are the signs of a truly wise and understanding person? James 3:13

6. What words are used to describe wisdom that is not from above? Have you known someone who is more about pride than humility; “I’m right” instead of “This is truth”; winning the argument instead of learning or teaching truth? What does this kind of wisdom always lead to? James 3:16

7. God’s desire is for Christians to be One as He (the Trinity) is One. Compare the list in James 3:17 to the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-24. Note how all of these fruit of wisdom and of the Spirit are unifying. Put the words of James 3:18 in your own words.

Read James 4 for next week.