

“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. **2**We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.” When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. **4**Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. **5**Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.” James 3:1-5

1) CHILDREN OF THE KING KNOW THE _____ OF WORDS

- We can discourage people.
- We can criticize.
- We can gossip.
- We can crush people’s spirit.

There will be a judgement. Thank God, Jesus died for our sins so that we are not judged for our sins (Romans 4:5; 8:1-2, Ephes. 2:1-9).

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**2**not by works, so that no one can boast.” Eph. 2:8-9a NIV

However, we will be held accountable for how we used our time and what words we spoke.

“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak.”
Matt. 12:36

This is why the scripture says that everyone should be slow to speak and not be too excited about being a teacher.

2) CHILDREN OF THE KING KNOW THE _____ OF WORDS.

“The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.” James 3:6 NIV

There are two places James wants us to know about that serve as the source for our words. One of them is hell. We not only hurt others with our words but we hurt ourselves. Understanding this is critical in our journey towards growth. Paul refers to the same concept in Romans chapter 7. Paul informs us that the spirit of hell finds an ally inside of us called the sinful nature. Every day, every minute of every day, we choose the source of our words.

James 3

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. **It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.** ⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water." James 3:7-12 NIV (bold mine).

God doesn't want us playing church. You may praise God, listen to Christian music, but if your pattern is to treat someone with contempt, you are "playing church". Don't be deceived, even if you are a faithful worshiper, your faith needs to be seen in how you treat others (James 2, Matthew 25:31-46).

"These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human
rules."

- Jesus, Mat. 15:8

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. **Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.** For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice." James 3:13-16 (bold mine)

3) CHILDREN OF THE KING USE WORDS TO _____

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness." James 3:17-19

Who is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere?

Jesus is. Jesus confronted, challenged, forgave, submitted and loved perfectly!

There is a wisdom from above available for us that can make us like Jesus. God changes us by the power of the Holy Spirit as we renew our minds by the Word of God (Romans 12).

FILL IN THE BLANK ANSWERS

- 1) DANGER/POWER
- 2) SOURCE
- 3) RENEW