

JAMES 3; December 11; Speech That Glorifies the LORD

ANALYSIS:

1. In this chapter, what marks a perfect person? _____
2. What three illustrations show how a small thing (like the tongue) can control or rule something very l_____
3. What can a tongue do which proves it is an unruly evil?

4. Where does bitter envying and strife in one's heart come from?

5. What are the characteristics of the wisdom that is from above?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Here we meet the power, difficulty to control, unpredictability and unnaturalness of the tongue. We are all too familiar with the unruly evil our tongue can produce. Much detail is given to the inconsistency of blessing and cursing coming from the same mouth (vs 9-12). James' conclusion is simple: "My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (v 10). When we read how the wisdom from above acts (vs 17-18), it reminds us of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23). We find the word "peace" three times. That is a blessing we all want all the time. Let us ask the Lord Jesus Christ to empower us (Phil 4:13) to walk in the Spirit, and to control all our words for His glory!

When our words are lacking in the wisdom that is from above, then let us immediately confess our evil work, and ask the Lord to enable us to show forth the fruit of the Spirit.

HELP:

1. A person who does not offend in word (v 2).
2. A bit in a horse's mouth controls the horse, a helm on a ship steers the ship, a spark can start a big fire (vs 3-5).
3. It can bless God and at the same time curse man (vs 9-10).
4. Not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish (v 15).
5. It is: pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, without hypocrisy, and the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace (vs 17-18).