

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

First Peter Bible Study — I Peter 3:8-14 Lesson #11

****INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire section of Scripture in First Peter before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word.

8-9 Finally, all of you **be of one mind, having COMPASSION for one another; LOVE as BROTHERS**, be tenderhearted, be courteous; **not returning evil for evil or REVILING for REVILING**, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

• **Romans 13:8-10** “Owe no man anything except to _____ one another, for he who _____ another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘You shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, ‘You shall _____ your _____ as yourself.’ _____ does _____ to a neighbor; therefore _____ is the fulfillment of the law.”

• **Matthew 22:36-40** “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You shall _____ the Lord your God with all your _____, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall _____ your _____ as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

• **John 15:12 & 17** “This is My _____, that you _____ one another as I have _____ you.” “These things I _____ you, that you _____ one _____.”

• **I John 2:7 & 3:11** “_____, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.” “For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should _____ one _____.”

• **I John 3:23** “And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and _____ one _____, just as He commanded us.”

• **I Timothy 1:5** “But the goal of our commandment is _____ from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

Definition: “NOT returning evil for evil or REVILING for REVILING” – “NOT returning evil for evil” is fairly obvious, meaning we should **NOT try to get REVENGE or PAY-BACK** for something someone has done to us. But what is “reviling”? **Reville means to be verbally abusive** or use abusive language. **Jesus did NOT answer back, threaten or CURSE** the soldiers who were abusing Him. Jesus knew that everything that was happening to Him was according to God’s plan, and He committed Himself to the Father’s care. God’s word tells us that the way Jesus acted when He was suffering unjustly is **to be our EXAMPLE of how we are to react to abuse**, persecution and **unfair treatment** from others.

• **John 19:8-9** “Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and _____ to _____, “Where are You from?” But _____ gave him no _____.”

• **Luke 23:9** “Then he questioned Him with many words, but He _____ him _____.”

• **Isaiah 53:7** “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not _____ His _____; He is brought as a _____ to the _____, and as a _____ before her shearers is dumb, so He did not _____ His _____.”

• **I Peter 2:21-23** “For to this you were _____, because _____ also

_____ for us, leaving us an _____, that you should _____ in His _____: 'Who committed no _____, nor was _____ found in His mouth,' who, when He was _____, did not _____ in return; when He _____, He did not _____, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously."

10-12 For "He who would love life and see good days, **let him REFRAIN his TONGUE from EVIL, and his LIPS from SPEAKING GUILE**; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

• **Psalm 34:13-15** "Keep your _____ from evil, and your _____ from speaking guile (dishonesty, deceit). Depart from _____, and do _____; seek _____, and pursue it. The _____ of the _____ are on the _____, and His ears are _____ to their _____."

Definition: "Let him REFRAIN his TONGUE from EVIL, and his LIPS from SPEAKING GUILE" – This is a quote from Psalm 34, although ALL THROUGH the word of God, it has a lot to say about how we speak, and **what comes out of our mouths, TONGUE and lips**. "**GUILE**" means dishonesty and deceit, but we need to stay away (**REFRAIN**) from ALL sorts of EVIL speaking. **We must learn to control our MOUTHS and how we speak**, or it could damage or even destroy our lives. In Proverbs, it says, "The wicked is ensnared (trapped) by the transgression of **his lips**, but the righteous will come through trouble." We must allow **the Holy Spirit to help us GUARD** and CONTROL (bridle) our lips and speech.

• **Ephesians 4:29** "Let no _____ communication proceed out of your _____, but what is _____ for necessary edification, that it may impart _____ to the hearers."

• **Colossians 4:6** "Let your _____ always be with _____, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to _____ each one."

• **Psalm 39:1** "I said, 'I will _____ my ways, lest I _____ with my _____; I will restrain my _____ with a muzzle, while the wicked are before me.'"

• **Proverbs 8:13** "The fear of the Lord is to hate _____; _____ and _____ and the evil way and the _____ I hate."

Definition: "PERVERSE MOUTH" – A perverse mouth is one of the things GOD HATES, because He knows how much damage it can do. Perverse means "turned away from, or opposing what is right or good; **CORRUPT**; improper, stubborn, obstinate." Ephesians 4:29 also tells us that the words that come out of our mouth should be "what is good" and for edification. Edification means to build up - the opposite of "tear down", which OUR TONGUES do many times with harsh, sarcastic, angry words. The way to counteract someone else's harsh angry words is found in Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Sowing seeds of kindness by speaking "a soft word" instead of more angry words, will cause you to reap a harvest of blessing. Sowing more "seeds" of anger into a situation **by speaking more angry words will only add fuel to the fire**, and that is what it means when it says, "See how great a forest a little fire kindles!" Our tongues have the capacity to start a "forest fire" of evil, if we don't control what words we speak. Just as an actual forest fire can be started by one small match or lit cigarette, our tongues, when not under the control of the Holy Spirit, can cause great damage.

• **James 3:6** "And the _____ is a _____, a world of iniquity (sin). The _____ is so set among our members that it _____ the whole _____, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on _____ by hell."

• **Proverbs 21:23** "Whoever guards his _____ and _____ keeps his soul from _____."

• **Matthew 12:34-37** "Brood of vipers! How can you, being _____ speak good things? For out of the abundance of the _____ the _____ speaks. A good man out of the _____ of his heart brings forth good things, and an _____ man out of the _____ brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for _____ idle _____ men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of _____. For by your _____ you will be justified, and by your _____ you will be condemned."

Definition: "The TONGUE is a FIRE.....it is SET on FIRE by HELL" – Because of the fall of man and the effects of sin, **our tongues are capable of doing much harm and evil.** The tongue is compared to a fire, and more particularly, the fire of hell, because it seems as if Satan and his demons get in there and take control of our tongues at times. Just as a little spark can cause a huge forest fire, our tongues can hurt people, ruin reputations, and cause all kinds of harm and mischief. James also tells us that **"no man can tame the tongue.** It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so." **It is true that NO MERE MAN can tame his own tongue, but with the POWER of the Holy Spirit, you can ask Him to control it,** as part of the "fruit of the Spirit" in your life. **The fruit of kindness, gentleness, love, joy, and self-control - FRUIT PRODUCED by the Holy Spirit in your life, if you allow Him to, CAN CONTROL your TONGUE** (Galatians 5:22-23). Your words are "seed" being planted in your life, and your mouth should not produce both seeds of blessing and cursing, but of blessing only.

• **Psalm 120:3-4** "What shall be given to you, or what shall be done to you, you false _____? Sharp _____ of the warrior, with _____ of the broom tree!"

• **Proverbs 16:27** "An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his _____ like a burning _____."

Definition: "It DEFILES the whole BODY" – To defile means to make corrupt or dirty. The sinful thoughts begin in the mind, but when they are not "taken captive to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:5), and you allow a sinful thought to come out of your mouth, it can then produce all kinds of trouble for the physical body and your life in general. When Jesus said, **"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, MURDERS, ADULTERIES, FORNICATIONS, THEFTS, and so forth, and that these are the things which DEFILE a man", obviously, those things He just mentioned are ACTIONS that require the use of your physical BODY,** and if you get caught doing something that is against the law, such as theft or murder, it is your physical BODY that will go to prison! Be careful how you use your tongue and how you talk, because it may end up as much more than just words!

• **Matthew 15:11 & 18-20** "_____ what goes _____ the mouth _____ a man; but what comes _____ of the _____, this _____ a man." "But those things which proceed out of the _____ come from the _____, and they _____ a man. For out of the heart proceed _____ thoughts, _____, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which _____ a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

13-14 And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? **But even IF you should SUFFER for RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE, you are BLESSED,** "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

•Acts 5:40-41 “So they departed from the presence of the council, _____ that they were counted worthy to _____ shame for His _____.”

•Matthew 5:10-12 “_____ are those who are _____ for _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed (happy) are you when they revile and _____ you, and _____ all kinds of _____ against you falsely for My _____. _____ and be exceedingly _____, for great is your _____ in heaven, for so they _____ the prophets who were before you.”

•Philippians 1:29 “For to _____ it has been granted on behalf of _____, not only to believe in Him, but also to _____ for His _____.”

Definition: “Even IF you should SUFFER for RIGHTEOUSNESS’ SAKE, you are BLESSED” — “SUFFERING for RIGHTEOUSNESS’ SAKE” is also called GOING THROUGH TESTINGS, TRIALS, and TRIBULATIONS. “Tribulation” means “distress or suffering resulting from oppression or persecution”. “Testing” means to qualify or prove by way of being put through certain conditions or procedures, in order to determine the quality or character of something. “Trial” means a tryout or experiment to test the quality, value or usefulness of something. Machines and automobiles are put through “STRESS TESTS” to see if they will hold up under severe conditions. Sometimes, God ALLOWS us to go through TESTS, TRIALS and SUFFERING to bring us to maturity in our faith, and to cause us to get rid of our character defects and shortcomings, and to **PRODUCE the character qualities of Jesus in us.**

•James 1:2-3 “My brethren, count it all _____ when you fall into various _____, knowing that the _____ of your _____ produces _____.”

•John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me you might have _____. In the world you shall have _____ (troubles, afflictions): but be of good _____; I have overcome the _____.”

•Romans 5:3-4 “And not only that, but we also glory in _____, knowing that tribulation produces _____; and perseverance, _____; and character, hope.”

•1 Peter 1:7 “That the genuineness of your _____, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is _____ by _____, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Definition: “And who is he who will HARM YOU if you become followers of what is good?” – This is a promise of God’s protection in our lives, but some might think it is a contradiction, when God’s word also says we will have to suffer persecution. What we are promised is this: God will protect us in order to fulfill His will and plan for our lives, and if that includes some suffering and persecution, it will be ultimately for our own GOOD, and will not really HARM us.

•Romans 8:31 “What then shall we say to these things? If _____ is _____, who can be _____ us?”

•Hebrews 13:5-6 “Let your conduct be without covetousness, and be _____ with what you _____. For He Himself has said, 'I will _____ you, nor _____ you', so we may _____ say, 'The _____ is my _____; I will _____. What can _____ do to me?'”

•Isaiah 54:17 “No weapon formed _____ you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises _____ you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the

servants of the Lord, and their _____ is from Me,' says the Lord."

•**Psalm 23:4-5** "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of _____, I will _____ no _____; for You are _____ me; Your rod and Your staff, they _____ me. You prepare a table before me in the _____ of my _____; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over."