

## James 3:6-18

6. And **the TONGUE is a FIRE, a world of iniquity**. The tongue is so set among our members that **it DEFILES the whole BODY**, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

- **Proverbs 21:23** "Whoever guards his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ keeps his soul from \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Psalms 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 \_\_\_\_\_."
- **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.

**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."

- **Proverbs 18:20-21** "A man's \_\_\_\_\_ shall be satisfied from the fruit of his \_\_\_\_\_, and from the produce of his \_\_\_\_\_ he shall be filled. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are in the power of the \_\_\_\_\_, and those who love it will \_\_\_\_\_ its fruit."
- **Proverbs 18:7-8** "A fool's \_\_\_\_\_ is his \_\_\_\_\_, and his \_\_\_\_\_ are the snare of his soul. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost \_\_\_\_\_."

**7-10.** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But 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 similitude (likeness) of God. Out of the same mouth proceed BLESSING and CURSING**. My brethren, these things **ought NOT to be so**.

- **Romans 3:13-14** "...With their \_\_\_\_\_ they have practiced \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ of asps (snakes) is on their \_\_\_\_\_; whose \_\_\_\_\_ is full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Psalms 140:3** "They sharpen their \_\_\_\_\_ like a \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ of asps is under their \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Ephesians 4:25, 29 & 30-32** "Therefore, putting away \_\_\_\_\_, each one \_\_\_\_\_ truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another." "Let no \_\_\_\_\_ communication proceed out of your \_\_\_\_\_, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." "And do not grieve the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all \_\_\_\_\_, wrath, \_\_\_\_\_, clamor, and all \_\_\_\_\_ be put away from you, with all malice. And be \_\_\_\_\_ to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you."

**Definition: "With it we CURSE MEN, who have been MADE in the LIKENESS of GOD"** - Do you remember, when you were a kid, saying that "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me"? We all probably said that little rhyme, but it is not really true - **WORDS really DO hurt us! God's word has a lot to say about the POWER of the tongue - our words - both to hurt and to heal**. You probably have realized the power of someone's words in the past to hurt you: the words of a parent who said you were not wanted, or that you "ruined" their life; the words of other children when you were little; the words of other teenagers saying you were ugly, or you couldn't join their group; the words of a parent or teacher saying you would never amount to anything, or you were just a "screw-up" or a loser. **Words have the power to destroy self esteem, or to build up and encourage**. Your own words have the power to shape the rest of your life. You can repeat the words of those who have hurt you or abused you, you can repeat the words of the devil as he plants temptations in your mind, **or you can CHOOSE to repeat the words of God!** God made you **according to His own image and likeness**, so don't let the thoughtless, hateful, or unkind words of others drag you down and put you under their "curse".

- **Proverbs 4:23-24** "Keep your \_\_\_\_\_ with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful \_\_\_\_\_, and put perverse \_\_\_\_\_ far from you."
- **Proverbs 13:3** "He who guards his \_\_\_\_\_ preserves his life, but he who opens wide his \_\_\_\_\_ shall have \_\_\_\_\_."

- **Proverbs 12:13-14** "The \_\_\_\_\_ is ensnared (trapped) by the transgression of his \_\_\_\_\_, but the righteous will come through trouble. A man will be \_\_\_\_\_ with good by the fruit of his \_\_\_\_\_...."

**11-13.** Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring can yield both salt water and fresh. Who is wise and understanding among you? **Let him show by GOOD CONDUCT** that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

- **I Peter 2:11-12** " \_\_\_\_\_, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your \_\_\_\_\_ honorable among the Gentiles that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your \_\_\_\_\_ which they \_\_\_\_\_, glorify God in the day of visitation."

**Definition: "Let him SHOW by GOOD CONDUCT"** - Just as "a spring does not send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening", or a "fig tree cannot bear olives", or "a grapevine can't bear figs", so a Christian should not engage in conduct that is confusing to the world - worldly and sinful one minute, and spouting off the Bible the next minute. We should live a consistent life, and our conduct and behavior should always be godly and Christlike. When you make mistakes or fall into sin temporarily, get up and brush yourself off, confess it to God, and confess it to whoever saw you committing that sin or was offended by something you did. This "good conduct" or "good works" that we do are the PRODUCT of our salvation, and a **testimony** to unbelievers to **SHOW** them that we belong to the Lord. God also uses us, as we do "good deeds" and acts of charity (love) to help meet the **needs** of His people in the church body. We are saved by **GRACE through our FAITH** (Eph. 2:8-9), and NOT by our works or by keeping the Old Testament Law, but that does NOT give us LICENSE to SIN or to live any old way that we please. We **SHOULD** do good works and be **OBEDIENT** to what we know God wants us to do, but as Christians, we are NOT to put ourselves back under the Old Testament Law or **any other form of LEGALISM, performing RITUALS or keeping ORDINANCES**. No SYSTEM of LAWS or RULES can make a person HOLY. Being "under grace" means we are to serve God out of the **motivation of LOVE and GRATITUDE**, and **by the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT!**

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by GRACE you have been saved through FAITH, and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT of God; NOT of WORKS, lest anyone should boast."
- **Titus 3:8 & 14** "This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have \_\_\_\_\_ in God should be careful to maintain \_\_\_\_\_. These things are good and profitable to men." "And let our people also \_\_\_\_\_ to maintain \_\_\_\_\_ to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful."
- **Titus 2:7-8** "In all things \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to be a pattern of \_\_\_\_\_; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound \_\_\_\_\_ that cannot be condemned, that the one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having \_\_\_\_\_ evil to say about you."
- **Colossians 1:10** "That you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully \_\_\_\_\_ Him, being \_\_\_\_\_ in every \_\_\_\_\_."

**14-16.** But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but **is earthly, sensual, demonic**. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing will be there.

- **Matthew 23:25** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but \_\_\_\_\_ they are full of extortion and \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "If you have BITTER ENVY and SELF-SEEKING in your hearts"** - A carnal, fleshly, sensual person (one being controlled by the flesh rather than the Spirit of God), will exhibit these evil qualities, which can even be, at times, demonic. These are hindrances to the filling of the Holy Spirit and producing His fruit in your life. If your heart and mind are filled with **ENVY and SELF-SEEKING**, anxiety, anger, fear, doubt, bitterness, pride, or any other "works" or "lusts of the flesh" (Galatians 5:14-21), those attitudes will control you. If you allow your heart and mind to be controlled and filled with God's Spirit, the evidence ("fruit") will be seen in your life, and you will be filled with his love, joy, peace, and all the fruit of the Spirit. Your life will exhibit **the fruits of the Spirit which are in essence the character qualities of Jesus Christ**. God's primary desire and plan for our lives is for us to be "conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29).

**17-18.** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield (humble, submissive), **FULL of mercy and good FRUITS**, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now **the FRUIT of righteousness** is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- **John 15:4-5 & 11** "Abide in \_\_\_\_\_, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear \_\_\_\_\_ of itself, unless it abides in the \_\_\_\_\_, neither can you, unless you abide in \_\_\_\_\_. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who \_\_\_\_\_ in Me, and I in him, bears much \_\_\_\_\_; for without Me you can do nothing." "These things I have spoken to you, that My \_\_\_\_\_ may remain in you, and that your \_\_\_\_\_ may be full."
- **Galatians 5:22-23** "But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_, joy, \_\_\_\_\_, longsuffering (patience), \_\_\_\_\_, goodness (meekness, humility), faithfulness, \_\_\_\_\_, self-control....."

**Definition: "FULL of mercy and good FRUITS"** - God wants us to be bearing spiritual fruit in our lives, and **Jesus said if we would abide in (stay in close communion with) Him, we would produce this fruit**. These "good fruits" we are to produce in our lives are also called "the fruit of the Spirit" in Galatians 5:22-23. Many well-meaning Christians struggle so hard to have these Christlike qualities (the fruit of the Spirit) in their lives, but they fail to realize that the fruit must come from within, from the Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts. **It is not by struggling, but by SURRENDERING**, that the Holy Spirit is allowed to fill us and produce His fruit. Jesus said that without Him, we can do nothing, and by that He meant that **only His Spirit working within us can produce His fruit** in our lives. You must completely surrender your life to Jesus Christ, learn to abide in him, work out and resolve the barriers of sin and dysfunction from your past, and **the fruit of the Spirit will come automatically. Anything you do "apart from Him" is "in the flesh" and worthless.**