



**Sunday March 20, 2022
James Chapter 3**

This is a short chapter and we divide this chapter into four easy sections.

A Sign Of Maturity

1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

3:1 While it is an honor to be a teacher of the Word of God, we must remember that we will be judged in a stricter manner or by higher standards. Hence, we who minister God's Word should hold ourselves to higher standards in how we live and practice our faith.

Jesus taught:

Matthew 5:19

Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

We are called to do and to teach. Do first, and then teach others. We practice the Word in our lives and then share with others the Word we practice or apply in our lives.

3:2 The word 'perfect' means complete, as in lacking nothing. It also means mature, full grown, an adult. If we can control our tongue, and not trip up (sin, fall) in our words, we can then keep the rest of our person (ourselves, our passions, our emotions, decisions, choices, etc.) in control (check).

The Passion Translation brings this out very well.

James 3:2 (The Passion Translation)

We all fail in many areas, but especially with our words. Yet if we're able to bridle the words we say we are powerful enough to control ourselves in every way, and that means our character is mature and fully developed.



Power Of The Tongue

3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

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.

3:3-5 James now goes on to explain to us the power of our tongue, that is the power of the words we speak and the influence our words have on our own lives.

James compares the tongue to the bit in a horses' mouth, the rudder in a ship, and a forest fire.

The bit and rudder, control and direct. Our words are powerful. They control and direct our lives.

The problem is many of us do not take this seriously. We cannot imagine that our words could have such a great influence on our lives. The bit in the horses' mouth or the rudder in the ship – can go unnoticed. Yet the bit is used to control the horse which is a strong animal. The bit is also used to direct the horse, moving it to the left or right. Similarly with the rudder that directs the ship even in the middle of difficult storms.

Fire in this context is powerful and destructive in its influence. James compares our words to a forest fire.

3:6 James is speaking of an evil tongue, a tongue that is sinful. A tongue that speaks wrong, evil, sinful words. This evil tongue is “set on fire by hell” or is influenced or inflamed by hell itself. Such a tongue defiles the whole body. And it extends its influence on the course of one's entire life.

Consider how the Good News Bible renders this verse:

James 3:6 (Good News Bible)

And the tongue is like a fire. It is a world of wrong, occupying its place in our bodies and spreading evil through our whole being. It sets on fire the entire course of our existence with the fire that comes to it from hell itself.



Now, the opposite is true for a good, clean, godly tongue. A godly tongue will be set on fire, that is influenced by the Word of God and the Spirit of God. We could re-word James 3:6 and state it like this for a godly tongue:

And the tongue is like a fire. It is a world of blessing, occupying its place in our bodies and spreading blessing through our whole being. It sets on fire the entire course of our existence with the blessing that comes from the Word of God itself.

We must understand the influence our words have on our lives and then determine to use our words to our advantage.

Taming The Tongue

7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?

12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

3:8 The seriousness of an untamed evil tongue should not be underestimated. It is an unruly evil, an uncontrolled, unrestrainable, restless evil, releasing words that are like deadly poison. Evil words are like deadly poison, destructive.

3:9-10 We bless God and curse men. We bless and curse. “My brethren” – James is speaking to God’s people, us believers. We must make a choice that we will not bless and curse.

3:11-12 Once again James uses comparisons this time with nature, naturally occurring things: a spring, a fig tree, a grapevine. He points out consistency in each of these. A spring will release only one kind of water, a fig tree produces only figs, and a grapevine only grapes. And this is how we must be as believers with our tongue, with our words.



The challenge now is for us to tame our tongue or to take control of the words we speak. We must make a determined choice that our mouths will only release words of life and blessing over ourselves and to those around us.

Divine Wisdom

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

3:13 How is wisdom and understanding demonstrated? By good conduct (good behavior) and works that are performed in humility and wisdom. A person who live this way, maintaining good conduct, and doing his work in humility and wisdom will be known as one who is wise and understanding.

3:14-15 When we operate with bitter envy (jealousy) and self-seeking (strife, contention, putting oneself forward, selfish ambition, selfish motivation) we are operating out of what is earthly (worldly), sensual (fleshly, unspiritual) and demonic. This is far from divine wisdom.

James teaches us that this is not something to brag about. Instead we need to own up and speak the truth about the jealousy and strife that is in our hearts

3:16 Wherever people operate out of jealousy and strife (selfish ambition) there is confusion and every evil thing. Satan has free access and complete freedom to work in such an environment. Imagine different scenarios where this could play out: in the home, in the workplace, in friendship, and even in the local church.

It is so important to guard our hearts and prevent jealousy and strife (selfish ambition) from entering in.



Remember, even if we do 'good things', 'spiritual things', church work or christian ministry work, motivated out of jealousy or strife (selfish ambition), sooner or later, we will see confusion and every evil work breaking out, even in such an environment.

We have an APC Book: Living Life Without Strife, which we recommend.

3:17 When someone is operating in God-given wisdom, the wisdom that comes from above, we will see these eight traits or characteristics:

- ✓ purity – everything done is holy, pure, clean, righteous, with integrity, with honesty
- ✓ peace – there is a sense of calm, a pleasant feeling of togetherness, unity,
- ✓ gentleness – there is expression of kindness, politeness, courtesy, compassion
- ✓ willing to yield – there is teachableness, not insisting on one's own way
- ✓ full of mercy – expressions of compassion, love, tenderness
- ✓ full of good fruits – the outcomes are positive, God-glorifying, people-edifying
- ✓ no partiality – things are done with fairness and equity
- ✓ no hypocrisy – what is said and done is genuine and sincere, not two-faced, no flattery, speaks the truth in love

These are the indicators of divine wisdom.

James taught us in chapter 1:5 that we could ask God for wisdom. How would we know if we have received wisdom from God and are walking in it? Look for these eight traits and marks of divine wisdom.

As leaders, we must watch over our own lives to walk with divine wisdom. We must ensure that these eight traits are consistently demonstrated in our lives.

3:18 Those who make peace, the peacemakers, they sow seeds peacefully that will bring them the fruits (or harvest) of right living. Walking in wisdom makes us peacemakers. We will reap the good rewards of a life lived well, which included what he mentioned in 3:13, being known as wise and understanding person.

SALVATION CALL

If you ask, does God love me? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 3:16, Romans 5:8

If you ask, how can I have my sins forgiven? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2,12

If you ask, what is the way to God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 14:6



If you ask, how can I become a child of God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 1:12

If you ask, where can I find salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 4:12

If you ask, what must I do to experience salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 16:30-31

As an act of your own free choice, we invite you to make this decision to follow Jesus.

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday March 20, 2022
James Chapter 3

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#) . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture reference: *James 3*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Why would James present taming the tongue an indicator of maturity?

2, Discuss the power of the tongue, as presented here in James 3.

3, Discuss the 8 characteristics of wisdom from above. Consider scenarios from your workplace or home-life, family situations, where you can apply this, and hence know that you are expressing divine wisdom.



If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

SERMON BRIEF

Epistle of James – A book study. James Chapter Two.

This is part-2 in this sermon series, a study of the book of James. James was possibly the first book of the New Testament to be written. Faith without works is dead. But how does faith work itself in everyday life situations? This is a key theme through the book of James as he tackles a range of daily life situations: trials, temptations, true religion, managing temper, taming the tongue, human relationships, desire for pleasures, prayer, being rich, being poor, wisdom, planning, and more. James shares in brief, what faith would look like in these situations. A simple, practical, and insightful book. A study you do not want to miss!

KEYWORDS

Book of James, Epistle of James. James chapter two, book study of James, the epistle of James, faith in everyday life, faith without partiality, faith without prejudice, faith and works, faith and corresponding actions

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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