

Scripture: James 3 vs 1 to 13

Subject: Wisdom for Godly Living Part 3

*1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.*

*2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.*

*3 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.*

*6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.*

*7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man,*

*8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.*

*9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.*

*10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.*

*11 Can both fresh water and saltwater flow from the same spring?*

*12 My brothers, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.*

*13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.*

In this study, we are going to look at what James says about 'The Tongue' the scriptures have a lot to say about the tongue, so I will be referring to a number of things relating to it, some things will be positive and others negative, because the scriptures do emphasize these two things in the O.T. and also the N.T.

From chapter 3 we will be considering the six analogies used by James to point out the truth he is emphasizing. These points help us to understand clearly what James wants us to comprehend about the tongue.

James is very forthright in what he has to say and does not hold back on how dangerous the tongue can be if it is not controlled. We will need to look at what he says, so let's observe what he states and go through the six things he uses to instruct us. He mentions.

The Tongue. Human

The Bit. The Animal

The Rudder. The Ship

A Fire. The Material

A Fountain. The Element

A Fig Tree. Nature

From what James writes about these we can conclude that the tongue that he parallels these things with is extremely dangerous unless it is brought under control. James states that various Kinds of things can be tamed he writes in verse 7 *for every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind.*

But then comes his warning in verse, 8 *“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison”.*

Now for us to concentrate on these six things will only be emphasizing the negative aspects of the tongue, whereas I want to stress to the positive aspects of it, although It is my intention to do this, I would not like you to forget for one moment how dangerous the tongue is if it not brought into subjection. 1Cor 9 v 27 Paul says, *“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified”.*

Let us consider the following.

## 1. A Godly Tongue is a Happy Tongue

**Psalm 126 v 2** says *“Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them”*.

The reason for joy expressed to be expressed as it does in this verse is because of what the Lord had done, for it says in the previous verse *“When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.”*

Freedom from the bondage of a tyrant was the reason for this happy tongue. It is an expression of what was being felt inside, this manifestation of happiness, joy and laughter was because of the freedom now being enjoyed. In Colossians Paul says in chapter 1 v 13 says *“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves”*

If the captives of O.T. could express their feelings of elation because of freedom from an earthly tyrant; how much we who have been delivered from the kingdom of Satan and have been placed in the Kingdom of the Son of God’s love.

**Psalm 63 v 5** says *“My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips”*

Paul writing to the Ephesians says in chapter 5 vs 18 to 20 reading the NIV.

18 *“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

19 *Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,*

20 *always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

So a Godly tongue is a happy tongue.

## 2. A Godly Tongue is a Healthy Tongue.

### **Proverbs 12 vs 17 & 18 ¶**

*17 “He who speaks truth declares righteousness, but a false witness, deceit.*

*18 there is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.”*

But the tongue of the wise promotes health is a wonderful statement because of the truth embedded in it, for the tongue of the wise does not inflict wounds but health.

In Proverbs 15 v 4 we read *“A wholesome tongue is a tree of life”*

**The FBN commentary** says, “An ungoverned tongue is the source of misery and ruin to its possessor and to others”.

We are constantly being told about healthy eating, that if we want to be well in health, we have to eat the right kind of food. The same applies spiritually; if we want to have a Godly tongue then we must feed our minds on the word of God.

### **In Romans 12 v 1 & 2**

*1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

*2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

If our minds have been transformed, this transformation is performed by the process of metamorphoo, which is the Greek word used by Paul, and is also the word from which we get metamorphosis, this means change, alteration, The process through something goes those changes it from one thing to another.

It is obvious that if the mind is changed from carnality to spirituality, then the language is changed, the expression of one’s words are altered by spiritual thinking, and not carnal or fleshly thinking.

**Song of Solomon 4 v 3** *“Your lips are like a strand of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely.”*

**Psalms 34 v 13** *Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.*

**Psalms 45 v 1** *My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.*

Yes a Godly tongue is a healthy tongue.

### **3. A Godly Tongue is a Healing Tongue.**

**Isaiah 61 vs 1 to 3** says.

1 *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

2 *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn,*

3 *To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”*

There are ample N.T. scriptures that confirm that Jesus has a healing tongue, He not only had a healing touch, He had a healing tongue. He spoke the word and He healed their disease.

The Godly Tongue is a Healing Tongue.

**Matthew Henry** says “A good tongue is healing, healing to wounded consciences by comforting them.”

It is amazing what the expression of words can do, in some cases they can wound deeply, in some cases they can destroy relationships, they can start wars, they can criticize they can condemn.

The tongue of the Christian is to be a tongue that brings healing, and not hurt.

It will do us good if we regularly think about the words of the Psalmist when he said in **Psalm 19 v 14** “*Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer*”

Living with a God-consciousness will ensure that our tongue will be a healing tongue and not a hurtful one.

Godly Tongue is a Healing Tongue.

#### 4. A Godly Tongue is a Helpful Tongue.

**Proverbs 16 v 24** “*Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.*”

**JFB commentary** says “Gentle, kind words, by soothing the mind, give the body health”.

A Godly tongue is helpful to those who are bereaved; a Godly tongue gives comfort by giving words that sooth, by comforting with the same comfort that they have been comforted with. A Godly tongue transmits the comfort of God.

A Godly tongue is helpful to those who are oppressed, those who are brokenhearted, those who are downtrodden, those feeling demoralized, those who have been abused in some way, either physically or mentally.

How important and vital it is to have this kind of tongue, and to make available to God for God to use.

Proverbs 15 vs 1 & 2 *1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

*2 The tongue of the wise use’s knowledge rightly,*

These verses tell us how we can use the tongue in two ways; it can be used to turn away wrath, or to ignite anger.

The Lord would have us to use our tongue wisely and not foolishly, and so as Christians our speech should give people the knowledge that we are different not because of our **looks** but because of our **language**.

So the Godly Tongue is a Helpful Tongue.

We have look at what kind of a tongue the Godly have I want now to speak for about the kind of tongue the Godly should not have.

In **Psalm 52** was a Psalm composed by David because of a man name Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, that he had come to the house of Ahimelech. King Saul at this time was after David, and Doeg in order to gain favour of King Saul reported David's whereabouts to him, this is what he wrote.

*1 Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The goodness of God endures continually.*

*2 Your tongue devises destruction, like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.*

*3 You love evil more than good, lying rather than speaking righteousness.  
Selah*

*4 You love all devouring words, you deceitful tongue.*

The Psalmist David mentions two types of tongue that the ungodly have; it says verses 2 & 4

*2 Your tongue devises destruction, like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. 4  
You love all devouring words, you deceitful tongue.*

## 5. The Tongue of the Ungodly Devise Destruction.

They invent strategies that incite violence and destruction; they have not respect for the rule of law, they constantly drip feed society until the abnormal is accepted by the majority as normal.

Laws in this country have been changed because of the tongue of the ungodly has persuaded Politicians to act against the Christian based laws that have been the foundation stone of our society.

## 6. The Tongue of the Ungodly Devise Deceit.

Dishonesty is devised by the ungodly. People will go to all lengths to promote their own kind of lifestyle, if they cannot do it by honest means they turn to dishonest means. The love of money is at the root of most dishonesty.

Here are a few more but we don't have time to go through them in detail.

The Virtuous Tongue.

The Vicious Tongue.

The Victorious Tongue.

The Ready Tongue.

The Reckless Tongue.

The Ridiculing Tongue.

A Loose Tongue.

A Lying Tongue.

A Liberated Tongue.

The Positive Tongue.

The Negative Tongue.

The Adoring Tongue.