

## Control Over the Tongue - James 1

September 7, 2017

### James 1:18 ESV

**18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.**

*As a seed that reproduces after its own kind, the Word of God regenerates our spirit, depositing within us the very life, power, nature and character of God, which, when nurtured, grows, matures and transforms as Christ living us.*

*The Word of God creates in you what it requires of you.*

*1 Peter 1:23 ESV*

*23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;*

*Ephesians 3:17 ESV*

*17 "...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith..."*

### James 1:21 ESV

**21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.**

*The Word of God is alive, powerful and always active. As we nurture the Word of God in our hearts and minds, yielding to its lordship, it is continuously at work within us to save, cleanse and transform us into God's workmanship.*

*Putting away all filthiness and wickedness is by the power and cleansing of God's Word, which is able to save our souls, not by our own self-discipline and self-control.*

*Hebrews 4:12 ESV*

*12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

*Romans 12:2 ESV*

*2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV*

*18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

**James 1:25 ESV**

**25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.**

*Nurturing, persevering and protecting the Word of God living within us are accomplished by reading, study, meditation and prayer.*

*If the Word of God is alive and nurtured within us, with a submissive heart receptive to the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for the Word to not produce and transform.*

*Psalm 1:2-3 ESV*

*2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

*3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

*John 16:13 ESV*

*13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

*Mark 4:14-20 ESV*

*14 The sower sows the word.*

*15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.*

*16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.*

*17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.*

*18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word,*

*19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

*20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."*

**James 1:26 ESV**

**26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.**

*If the Word of God is alive and nurtured within us, with a submissive heart receptive to the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for the Word to not produce and transform.*

*Works, or fruit, which are birthed by the life and power of the Word of God living within, validate and demonstrate that our faith is genuine, alive and actively at work. To think that our faith is alive without works and transformation, is to think that a tree can be alive without leaves and fruit.*

*We are not saved by works, but we cannot be saved without works.*

*James 2:17 ESV*

*17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

*One fruit which is born by faith (the Word of God living and active within), is temperance, or self-control. It is the control over self, not by will-power nor self-discipline, but self-control which is enabled and empowered by the Spirit and Word of God.*

*Galatians 5:22-23 ESV*

*22 But the fruit of the Spirit is...*

*23 ...self-control...*

*James 1:19-20 ESV*

*19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;*

*20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

**James is saying in verse 26 of chapter 1 that one of the first and foremost areas in our lives where self-control by the Holy Spirit will manifest is the tongue, in what we say and don't say.**

*James 1:26 ESV*

*26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.*

**James 3:1-12 ESV**

**1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.**

**2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.**

**3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.**

**4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.**

*If you bring your tongue under the control of the Holy Spirit in you, then you are able to control the rest of your body (the flesh) "...able also to bridle his whole body."*

**James 3:1-12 ESV**

**5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!**

**6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.**

*The tongue is capable of evil, hateful, destructive, life-scarring wounds in the spirits, emotions and minds of others. Evil words can wound and break the spirit, pervert the mind and manipulate the emotions.*

*Psalm 52:2-4 ESV*

*2 Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.*

*3 You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. Selah*

*4 You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.*

*Psalm 140:1-3 ESV — To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.*

*1 Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men,*

*2 who plan evil things in their heart and stir up wars continually.*

*3 They make their tongue sharp as a serpent's, and under their lips is the venom of asps. Selah*

**James 3:1-12 ESV**

**7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,**

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

*Self-discipline and self-control is impossible in the flesh. Self-discipline and self-control is impossible without the enabling and empowering of the Holy Spirit.*

*Romans 7:18 ESV*

*18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*

*Galatians 5:16 ESV*

*16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

**James 3:1-12 ESV**

**9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.**

**10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.**

**11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and saltwater?**

**12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.**