

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 3B

The Holy Spirit

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Continuing our study, we come to James 3:6-8 ***And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. 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 the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.***

No one born of Adam can tame the tongue. That little member reveals the heart's deepest secrets, causing damage day after day. We may use it for good or for evil, but it is beyond the power of the natural man to govern its use.

James 3:9 ***Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*** That same tongue can manifest itself as carnal or godly. It just depends on who is in control of the heart at the moment. The same tongue can stand in church and sing, "Oh, How I Love Jesus", and on the way out the door, say to another, "Oh, how I hate you."

James 3:10-12 ***Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.***

The tongue is a muscular part of the body that is used for taste, for assistance in swallowing, and in human beings for speech. Taste and swallowing are instinctive to beings created by God, but the use of speech is controllable by the individual. That little body part can be used to encourage or to destroy, it all depends on the attitude of the individual in control.

The Bible says ***the tongue is a fire***. Those are very harsh words to describe a part that helps me swallow and taste a delicious bowl of Rocky Road ice cream. Think of the tongue as another arm on your body that reaches out from your heart and touches the heart of those you speak to. One cruel word could destroy the heart of the person you are talking to just as if you plunged a knife into their chest. One kind remark of encouragement might be all a person needs to be helped or encouraged, causing respect for you.

The Bible says Matthew 12:36 ***But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.***

Every idle word? Because we cannot see or hear God in the room when we are talking to someone, we feel free to say whatever we please. Sadly,

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most will flippantly just blurt out hurtful conversation because God is not real in their lives. But God is in your presence each time you open your mouth, each time you praise, each time you curse. God is there, and He is listening. As indicated in the verse above, God is taking notes. We are the temple of God, and He lives inside of us, every moment of every day.

1 Corinthians 3:16 *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

As mentioned in previous lessons, the Christian has two natures inside one body - the old man and the new man. These two natures will always be with us until that blessed day we step into eternity. Until that day, we are obligated by God to control the old nature. (See Ephesians 4:22-24). Watch how quickly a group of whiners in the lobby at church can stop bad-mouthing the preacher, turning their heads to speak kindly to him. Watch as a woman yells at her husband all the way to church then speaks so sweetly once she arrives. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

When the old man is allowed the use of our tongue, it is often a disaster. When Jesus Christ is given the use of our tongue, it is always a blessing. The determining factor is to whom we are surrendered at the moment.

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We have learned that the new birth results in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and that the presence of God within us makes it possible to live a righteous life in this present world. The issue in controlling what we say is not birth or environment but submission. Romans 6:12-14 ***Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.***

These verses lead up to a consequence if the Christian continues this displeasing behavior. God is not going to just stand around as we disobey Him on a daily basis without getting involved. What is the difference between murder, rape, child molestation, profanity, lying, gossip, and envy? Nothing, they are all sinful, and disobedient behavior to God. Again, because you are not aware that God is in you when you are committing the offences, you become oblivious to His concern. A child who continues to attempt to stick his finger in the light socket will eventually get shocked, and it may even kill him.

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God is no different. If we continue to disobey His command, we will get shocked, and it may even kill us.

Romans 6:16 *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

The Holy Spirit has no power over a child of God that is not granted Him by the child of God. We may muddle along in sin and failure, or we may bear fruit unto righteousness, depending upon the desire of our heart. If we want to be pleasing to God, we must yield control to the Lord. Longsuffering, gentleness, and meekness are all possible when we long for them. Anger, bitterness, and malice are ready to carry the day if we bid them take the throne of our lives.

Our tongues are a reflection of our heart. Let's look at a few different types of tongues in the Bible:

- The Piercing Tongue - Proverbs 12:18 *There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.*
- The Cursing Tongue - Romans 3:13-14 *Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:*
- The Talebearing Tongue - Leviticus 19:16 *Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.*
Proverbs 18:8 *The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*
- The Proud Tongue - Psalms 12:3-4 *The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?*
- The Flattering Tongue - Psalms 5:9 *For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.*
- The Lying Tongue - Proverbs 25:18 *A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.*
- The Overworked Tongue - Ecclesiastes 5:3 *For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.*
Ecclesiastes 5:2 *Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.*
- The Swift Tongue - Proverbs 18:13 *He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.*

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- The Backbiting Tongue - Proverbs 6:16-19 ***These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.***

All of the above nine uses of our tongues are displeasing to the Lord. So if you are doing any or all of them, stop it, repent, and ask forgiveness.

The question is simple, do you want to please God? There is an abundance of rewards that come with pleasing HIM, not only in Heaven but in this life now. We may have peace and joy when we are ready for them. God is able to make us Christ-like when we are willing to be changed. Our usage of our tongue and our thought life is the key.

Let me share with you a true story, so you can feel the impact as many of us did from a backbiting tongue.

My Pastor is a true man of God. His intention for the furtherance of the Gospel is testified to by those who have grown in the love the Lord Jesus Christ just as he has. He prays earnestly for each member of the church that God has entrusted to him over the years. He follows the teachings and principles of the Bible to the letter, and his mercy and forgiveness towards people's mistakes are abundant.

Some years ago, a woman attended our church fellowship who started telling lies about our Pastor and other members of the Church. She even posted her lies on social media and sent anonymous letters to many of the members. Her attitude and lies eventually caused a major split in the congregation. Many members went to other churches, and some stopped coming to church altogether. Her backbiting tongue hurt my Pastor very deeply.

About a month later, this woman's husband died (he was about 50). Then shortly after, she was admitted to the hospital with brain cancer (she was about 48). I visited the hospital and asked her if she would make her peace with God and my Pastor by asking for their forgiveness. She laughed. A week later she was dead. What a dreadful way to step into the presence of God Almighty, being unrepentant to a sin God hates.

Notes

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Name _____

Note: (*) An asterisk indicates must include scripture with your answers.

1. Will we ever be held accountable for the words we have said to another person? *
2. Why do you think the backbiting tongue is the worst of all the uses of the tongue? *
3. What controls your tongue? *
4. Where is God when you are cursing? *
5. What will happen to a Christian if he or she continues to displease the Lord? *
6. Explain in detail Romans 6:16. *

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7. When is the Holy Spirit in control of a Christian? *
8. There are nine uses of the tongue listed in this lesson. Name some other uses or non-uses defined in theses verses:
- 2 Timothy 4:2 _____.
 - Habakkuk 2:20 _____.
 - Psalm 147:7 _____.
 - Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31 _____.
 - Psalm 97:12 _____.
 - Deuteronomy 3:28 _____.
 - Psalm 37:30 _____.
 - Ephesians 4:29 _____.
 - Romans 10:9 _____.
 - Proverbs 26:28 _____.
9. How is your tongue like another arm coming from your mouth?
10. In relation to our Bible lesson, explain what the Bible admonishes us about in Ephesians 5:4?

True/false

- It is OK to joke around with a friend.
- It is best to be silent unless you have something good to say.
- Never say anything bad about anyone, even if you know it is true.
- God hates people who talk bad about other people.



Scripture memorization

Psalm 107:8; Proverbs 6:16-19; Matthew 12:36

Write out these verses on the back on this page or a separate piece of paper:
(must be in KJV)

any questions?