

SESSION 12  
JAMES 3.1-5

In the verses considered in the previous session, James confronts us with the truth that if faith in Christ is authentic, works in Christ must be evident i. e. faith must be completed by works. The theme was powerfully expounded by the faith accounts of Abraham and Rahab, two individuals from very divergent life situations. In this session James addresses the truth that authentic faith must be evidenced not only in works, but also in speech, introducing us to the immense importance of having the tongue be under control of the Holy Spirit.

V 1 Why do you think James provides us with this warning directed toward those who teach?

Do you think it is “fair” that teachers be judged with greater strictness at the Judgement?

2 Cor 5.10  
Jn 15.8  
1 Cor 3. 10-15

“Some will suffer loss entering Heaven by the skin of their teeth and with the smell of smoke on their garments.” Harold Lindsell

1 Jn 4.15-18

V 2 What is James’ view of the perfect man?

RA Ward comments regarding controlling the tongue, “This is not an asceticism that kills, but the discipline that controls.” What do you think he is saying?

V 3-4 What spiritual principle is illustrated by the practical examples presented in these verses?

What is the significance of the strong winds (fierce winds in NKJV)?

V 5 What is the spiritual substrate for an unbridled tongue?

James compares the unbridled tongue and its consequences to a spark’s effects on dry brushwood. What examples of this phenomenon have you seen in real time?

What fruits of the Spirit are the most precious and powerful in maintaining control of the tongue?