

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

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

Filling in the Gaps
Lesson 35A
Wisdom and the Tongue

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There can never be too many bible lessons about the tongue since that is the biggest stumbling block to our growth and maturity in the Lord.

Let's start at James 1:5 the Bible says, ***If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*** If any of us lack wisdom, God has promised to give us the wisdom that we need. Look in Proverbs 2:1-3 ***My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*** Proverbs 8:1 ***Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?***

Simply cry for wisdom and understanding, then wisdom and understanding cry back three times (Proverbs 8:1-3). The implication is that God desires to give us as much wisdom as we need. If we truly desire it, God is able and willing to give it to us and more if He sees our intentions are pure. He has already given us the light, guidance, direction, truth, and knowledge that we need to make the right choices. It's simply up to us to read it, believe it, and obey it, then avail ourselves of it. If we lack wisdom, ask God. He'll give us wisdom. Look at James 1:19 There is a ton of wisdom in this verse. How are you doing with that?

We need to listen to the people around us who know more than we do. ***Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:*** If we want to do what's right, we must stop flying off the handle, get control of our emotions, and calm ourselves down. Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. That sounds like wisdom. James 1:26 ***If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridlesh not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.*** Here is some more wisdom from God. It does not matter what we pretend to be. It does not matter what we get other people to think that we are. God knows what we are. "If you want to not just seem religious, but you actually want to be religious, you want to have a religion that is profitable and that is helpful, learn to control your mouth. Stop saying things that are wrong. Stop saying things that are hurtful. Bridle your tongue". God just gave us wisdom with that simple phrase. Now we must follow His wisdom.

James 3:1-2 ***My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man***

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offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. We have discussed this verse in previous lessons. It's worth saying it one more time. When someone offends us, we need to remember that we also offend others. That will help us back away from falling off the ledge of anger and help us to be slow to wrath. James 1 tells us that we will get offended, and James 3 encourages us to remember that fact, but also shows us that we do not have an excuse. Nothing in the Bible justifies our lack of control or our lack of restraint. The Bible says we need to put a bridle on our tongue. We need to govern it, control it, hold it back. We ought not just speak our mind. It is okay to be honest, it is okay to be forthright, it is okay to not be fake or to not pretend, but it does not mean we have to say everything we think. It is often not helpful. It is better to bridle our tongue and pull back on the reins before we speak.

In fact, James three said, Listen, if we can master this, we will probably be able to get a handle on everything else. James 3:2 ***For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*** The tongue is the most difficult member of the body to control. Christianity involves self-denial. Jesus said, in Matthew 16:24 ***Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. If any man follow Me, let him take up his cross and deny himself and follow me.*** The Bible tells us in Colossians to mortify our members Colossians 3:5 ***Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*** one of those members is right inside our mouth. We have to keep it in check. It is a little member, but it can do great damage. James 3:3-4 ***Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.*** How many thousands of acres have burned in California & Oregon because of one little cigarette tossed out a car window? James 3:5 ***Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!***

Our tongues can do great damage or great help to a young Christian, that is why God is so adamant about offenses. Think for a moment about telling a child he or she is stupid. Meditate on that. The damage could be irreversible for many years. Obviously, that is not pleasing to the Lord based on His response repeated three times in the scriptures: Matthew 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2 ***It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.*** Three times He said it. God is serious.

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A little snide comment here, a little backstabbing there, a little rude remark, a little slander. Listen, these little things can be a big deal.

Quick little testimony:

About 25 years ago, I had a weight problem. Certain church members would call me fat and say things that would really hurt me. My Pastor advised me not to get mad but rather to pray for them. Though they apologized, they continued to do it until they left the church. God is serious about church members not tearing down one another. (Ephesians 5:3-4) This kind of behavior is hurtful and goes against God's instructions.

There are so many ways to sin with our tongue - flattery, lying, deceit, guile, slander, cursing, blasphemy. The list just goes on and on. The options are endless for how we can transgress the word of God with what we say and how we say it.

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.***

Do you know what the Holy Spirit just said? We do not stand a chance to control this little member on our own. Thankfully, it is not up to us. If we are saved, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. All we must do is yield our members to the Holy Spirit's control. The obvious implication here is that if we do not yield, we are carnal. The Bible says in Romans 8:7 ***Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*** Enmity is defined in the Bible as "enemy". look at James 4:4.

No man can tame the tongue, but the Holy Spirit can. Praise the Lord! So we do not have to go around harming people with what we say. We can encourage, complement, and praise others. Life will be a whole lot nicer if we do that, rather than the other.

We have no excuse for our failure in this. James 3:9 ***Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*** Men especially have a problem in this area. We tend to think it is funny to razz another brother in the Lord. Sarcasm is our love language. There is a level of this that is acceptable and fun, but we cross the line when make fun of how God made someone. When we do that, are saying that God made a mistake. Romans 9:20 ***Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?***

If how God made someone becomes the source of ridicule and derision, we have crossed the line from love language (teasing) to hate. Are we going to bless God and then curse men? God made every individual the way He planned.

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We cannot be right with God and wrong with the people that He made and He loves. Jesus said, Matthew 5:23-24 ***Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*** In other words, God said, "Your worship does not mean to me what you think it means if you're not right with your brothers and sisters. The Bible says in 1 John 4:20-21 ***If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.***

It is disgusting to be in public and hear the way that people talk. They ought to be ashamed of their use of the English language in such a perverse manner. If we are saved, we have no excuse for talking in this way. Now cursing, obviously, has a broader application than just swear words; it also means that we should not come to church and sing God's praise one day and then go to the job site and have a filthy mouth. We shouldn't go out and pass out tracts and witness and tell people how much we love Jesus, and then tell a bunch of dirty jokes. The Bible says Ephesians 4:29 ***Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*** The fountain of your mouth should not bring forth sweet water and polluted James 3:11-12 ***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.*** What is the point the Lord is trying to make? He is asking us to consider the source. Remember the Bible says Luke 6:45 ***A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*** If our mouth blabbers both blessing and cursing, the problem is the source - our heart. This is a heart matter that needs to be dealt with. Look also at Luke 6:43-44 ***For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.*** For of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. Luke 6:46 ***And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?***

Here's what we do with a Bible Lesson like this one, we want to take that passage and judge everybody else. We examine his, hers or their fruit - "Mmm, I can tell what's in their heart." What about our own heart? How about we examine our own fruit? How about we listen to our own selves? Have you ever heard yourself on a recording? It does not even sound like yourself. That is what we sound like to other people. I think sometimes it would be helpful for us, to stop and listen to ourselves. I do not think we realize how it is that we

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sound when we speak and what we say. What comes out of our mouth reveals something about us. It reveals what's in our heart. It would be helpful for us to slow down and listen; then be slow to speak and slow to wrath.

Make sure you do Lesson 35B to get a complete understanding of these truths.

Notes

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Filling in the Gaps
Lesson 35A
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Name _____

Note: (*) An asterisk indicates your answer must include scripture for proof.

1. Define Matthew 12:36.
2. What has this Bible lesson taught you?
3. What do we need to do with our tongue? *
4. When is it acceptable with God to say something insulting to another? *
5. Explain how a bridle can keep you from giving in to your temper? *
6. How does wisdom relate to the use of the tongue?
7. Why is a carnal Christian a hypocrite? *
8. Why is it more difficult for men to tame the tongue, rather than for women?

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9. How can you be perfect in the sight of God in the use of your tongue?
10. What are you telling God when you comment about someone's looks in a derogatory manner? *
11. Define enmity. *
12. If you tear down someone with your words, what does God say to you when you come to Him in prayer? *
13. What does it say about a person who sings God's praises then gossips about another person? *

True/false

- It is acceptable to speak your mind always.
- Christianity involves self-denial.
- God understands that profanity is necessary at times to make a strong statement.
- We will be judged for every idle word we have spoken and the motive behind why we said those words. *

**Scripture memorization**

Jeremiah 11:20; 1 John 4:20-21; James 1:5

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?