

...KING ANYTHING. IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT FAULT, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. BUT WHEN YOU ASK, YOU MUST BELIEVE AND NOT DOUBT, BECAUSE THE ONE WHO DOUBTS IS LIKE A WAVE OF THE SEA, BLOWN AND TOSSED BY THE WIND. BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO PERSEVERES UNDER TRIAL BECAUSE, HAVING PASSED IT, THAT PERSON WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE THAT THE LORD HAS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM. WHEN TEMPTED, YOU SHOULD SAY, "GOD IS TEMPTING ME," FOR GOD CANNOT BE TEMPTED BY EVIL, NOR DOES HE TEMPT ANYONE. BUT EACH PERSON IS TESTED WHEN THEY ARE DRAGGED AWAY BY THEIR OWN EVIL DESIRE AND ENTICED. THEN, AFTER DESIRE HAS CONCEIVED, IT GIVES BIRTH TO SIN, AND SIN, WHEN IT IS FULL-GROWN, GIVES BIRTH TO DEATH. DON'T BE DECEIVED, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. WE WERE CHOSEN TO GIVE US BIRTH THROUGH THE WORD OF TRUTH, THAT WE MIGHT BE A KIND OF FIRSTFRUITS OF ALL HE CREATED. MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TAKE NOTE OF THIS: EVERYONE SHOULD BE QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK AND SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY. BECAUSE HUMAN ANGER DOES NOT PRODUCE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT GOD DESIRES. THEREFORE, GET RID OF ALL MORAL FILTH THAT IS SO PREVALENT AND HUMBLY ACCEPT THE WORD PLANTED IN YOU, WHICH CAN SAVE YOU. DO NOT MERELY LISTEN TO THE WORD AND SO DECEIVE YOURSELVES. DO WHAT IT SAYS. ANYONE WHO LISTENS TO THE WORD BUT DOES NOT DO WHAT IT SAYS IS LIKE A MIRROR THAT LOOKS AT HIS FACE IN A MIRROR AND, AFTER LOOKING AT HIMSELF, GOES AWAY AND IMMEDIATELY FORGETS WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE. BUT WHOEVER LOOKS INTENTLY INTO THE PERFECT LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM, AND CONTINUES IN IT—NOT FORGIVING WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD, BUT DOING IT—THEY WILL BE BLESSED IN WHAT THEY DO. RELIGION THAT GOD OUR FATHER ACCEPTS AND APPROVES IS THIS: TO LOOK AFTER ORPHANS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR DISTRESS AND TO KEEP ONESELF FROM BEING POLLUTED BY THE WORLD. MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BELIEVERS IN OUR GLORIOUS LORD JESUS CHRIST MUST NOT SHOW FAVORITISM. IF YOU COME INTO YOUR MEETING WEARING A GOLD RING AND FINE CLOTHES, AND A POOR MAN IN FILTHY OLD CLOTHES ALSO COMES, YOU SHOW SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE MAN WEARING FINE CLOTHES AND SAY, "HERE'S A GOOD SEAT FOR YOU," BUT SAY NOTHING TO THE MAN WEARING FILTHY CLOTHES. YOU SAY, "STAND HERE OR SIT ON THE FLOOR," AND YOU DISCRIMINATE AMONG YOURSELVES AND BROTHERS WITH EVIL THOUGHTS? LISTEN, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS: HAS NOT GOD CHOSEN THOSE WHO ARE POOR IN THE WORLD TO BE RICH IN FAITH AND TO INHERIT THE KINGDOM HE PROMISED THOSE WHO LOVE HIM? BUT YOU HAVE DISHONORED HIM. IS IT NOT THE RICH WHO ARE EXPLOITING YOU? ARE THEY NOT THE ONES WHO ARE DRAGGING YOU INTO COURT? ARE THEY NOT THE ONES WHO ARE BLASPHEMING THE NOBLE NAME OF HIM TO WHOM YOU BELONG? IF YOU REALLY KEEP THE ROYAL LAW OF LOVE, "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," YOU ARE DOING RIGHT. BUT IF YOU SHOW FAVORITISM, YOU SIN AGAINST THE LAW AS LAWBREAKERS. FOR WHOEVER KEEPS THE WHOLE LAW AND YET STUMBLES AT JUST ONE POINT IS GUILTY OF ALL OF IT. FOR HE WHO SAID, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," ALSO SAID, "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER." IF YOU COMMIT ADULTERY BUT DO COMMIT MURDER, YOU HAVE BECOME A LAWBREAKER. SPEAK AND ACT AS THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO BE JUDGED BY THE LAW THAT GIVES FREEDOM. BECAUSE JUDGMENT WITHOUT MERCY WILL BE SHOWN TO ANYONE WHO HAS NO MERCY. MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT. WHAT GOOD IS IT, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IF SOMEONE CLAIMS TO HAVE FAITH BUT DOES NOT HAVE DEEDS? CAN SUCH FAITH SAVE THEM? SUPPOSE A BROTHER OR A SISTER IS WITHOUT CLOTHES AND DAILY FOOD. IF ONE OF YOU SAYS, "KEEP WARM AND WELL FED," BUT DOES NOTHING ABOUT THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS, WHAT GOOD IS IT?

NOT JUST SUGGESTIONS - JAMES

Just do it

Just control your tongue!

James 3:1-12

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

³ We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. ⁴ And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. ⁵ In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.

But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. ⁶ And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

⁷ People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those

who have been made in the image of God. ¹⁰ And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! ¹¹ Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? ¹² Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

I. The Power of our words

II. How to use our words to build up and not tear down

1. Fill your heart and mind with good stuff

2. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit

3. Be intentional with praise and thanksgiving

4. Be intentional with blessing and encouragement

5. Shut your pie hole