

BRIDLE YOUR TONGUE (Part #1)

In our last study we covered the difference between vain and pure religion from the world's standpoint.

We will now study how vain religion works within the Christian church.

(Jas.1:26) “**If (1class condition / true) anyone (tis/ nsm) thinks (dokeo/ p.a.ind.3ps) himself to be (eimi/ p.a.infin) religious (threskos), and yet does not (me) bridle (chalinageo/ p.a.ptc.nsm) his own (heautos) tongue, but (alla) deceives (apatao/ p.a.ptc.nsm) his own(heautos) heart, this man's (houtos) religion(threskeia) is worthless or vain/ mataios.**”

James is like many pastor-teachers who do a great job of explaining the fleshly problem, but not the spiritual solution.

For example, in our lesson text James lays out the fleshly problem of sins of the tongue and leaves the believer without how to conquer it. James says you are responsible to control your own tongue. He suggests that you bridle it. (Jas.1:26-27; 3:3-12)

Four aspects of how to spiritually Bridle Your Tongue by the supernatural power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

1. James leaves us with self-control over the problem of sins of the tongue.

This believer “thinks himself to be religious;” and is now told “his religion is worthless or vain.” We learn that human self-control isn't a fool proof solution. It doesn't work 100% of the time.

What James could have explained was how to access the supernatural power over the Old Sin Nature by walking by means of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17; 1 Cor.3:1-3) [spirituality, not carnality]

This works 100% every time because it is God, the Holy Spirit.

2. These believers need to be told that ONE of the NINE fruits of the indwelling Holy Spirit is the supernatural spiritual provision of self-control.

Supernatural spiritual self-control is a fruit of the filling ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit listed in Gal.5:22-23.

Spiritual self-control or temperance (egkrateia/ nsf) is listed as the ninth fruit of the Holy Spirit (Eph.4:29-32).

3. Under the control of flesh (Old Sin Nature), all apparatuses of the human soul given by God are capable of abuse by the flesh (1 Cor.3:1-3) [Carnal] (Prov.6:16-19).

When the human tongue is under the control of human volition (fee will) and of lust gratification of the Old Sin Nature, it results in sins of the tongue.

Personal sin results in choices we make regarding types of lust gratification of our Old Sin Nature. (Jas.1:14-15; Rom.13:14).

When the tongue is under control of human mentality and of lust gratification of Old Sin Nature, certain patterns and conditions are established for certain types of sins of tongue:

- Gossiping
- Slander
- Maligning
- Name-calling
- Abusive speech
- Cursing
- Lying
- Blaming
- Flattery
- Perjury

There are two biblical spheres of mentality:

- Mind (perception) (Jas.1:8, 22-25; Col.3:1-2)
- Heart (comprehension) (Jas.1:19-21; Phil.4:7; Col.3:15-17; Mark 7:20-23).

- 4. Therefore, God has given each Church Age Believer the indwelling Holy Spirit to supernaturally conquer these types of abuses; whether in the life of a baby, immature, or mature believer. (1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.3:2)**

Paul shows a contrast between 15 carnal works of flesh in (Gal.5:19-21) & (Col.3:7-10), and 9 fruit of Holy Spirit in (Gal.5:22-23) & (Rom.6:12-18).