

Living Faith ~ Pastor Alex Perednia ~ October 29, 2017

#7 FAITHBOOK ~ A Self-Controlled Faith? (James 3:1-12; 4:11-17)

Examining what the book of James (*Faithbook*) teaches us about what faith is and how to strengthen it.

Opening: Can we all remember a time when our tongue got us in trouble? Now, with the texting, email and social media so pervasive, starting a war of words is just a click away.

- ❶ A key test of our faith: Are we self-controlled with our **TONGUE!** (3:1-12; cf. 1:19, 26)
- It is our *responsibility* (especially teachers) to guard our tongues. (3:1-2a; cf. 2:12; Matt 12:36-37). Yet sadly, we often fail in this area.
- Our tongue can be a powerful *influence for good* (3:2a-5a)
- Our tongue be a powerful *influence for bad* (3:5b-8)
- The reason the tongue is one of the best indicators of our faith is because it reveals the true **NATURE** of our life of faith. (3:11-12; Matt 12:33-35)

- ❷ Will you take this test of our faith? (3:9-12; 1 Corinthians 11:28)
- Test #1: How are we speaking *to* or *about* **GOD?** (3:9a, 10a; 4:13-17)
- Test #2: How are we speaking *to* or *about* **OTHERS?** (3:9b, 10b; 4:11-12)

BIG IDEA: Our faith is shown by what we say because it reveals *who* we are.
What's our tongue say about your *faith status*?



CONNECTION GROUPS at Living Faith
Sermon-based Group
Wednesday, Nov. 8 @ 2PM and 7PM

- ❶ If we're honest every one of us can acknowledge a time we said something (in person or in writing) that we regretted. Can you be transparent and share a time you did not show self-control? What did you ultimately learn from this incident?
- ❷ Read James 3:1-12 and watch this week's teaching video from Francis Chan on it. <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/159923#6> Any initial reactions?
- ❸ Let's look closer at the passage.
 - A** In 3:1-2, why do you think James singles out teachers about the importance of the tongue? What does he expect from them (and all of us)?
 - B** In 3:3-8, What analogies does James employ to describe both the positive and negative consequences of controlling the tongue? Which one stands out the most to you?
 - C** Please respond to Chan's statement: "It's not just about... Ooh, I let a word slip. It's about of *who* are you? ...Were you really changed by God if these things are still coming out of your mouth? We're talking about your very nature." According to James 3:10-12, why does Chan say this? So, what is the ultimate solution to controlling our speech?
- ❹ What are the two levels of speech we need to evaluate? Does James 4:11-17 provide us additional insight into these tests of our faith?
- ❺ What practical steps and tools can we take to gain greater self-control over our tongue? How does the *T.H.I.N.K. tool* help you think before you speak? Can you suggest any special precautions for our online interactions?

MEMORY VERSE: James 3:10