

not pernicious, and he is wholly clear from the charge of deception.”

C. What is truth?

**LIVE THE STORY**

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Read the book of James noting the various places that wisdom like sayings or “how to live your lives” instruction is given.
- According to James 3:1-12, why must we be slow to speak?
- Why might *how* we speak be significant in revealing the source of our “wisdom”? How might James 3 provide you with measurements to identify the source of your speech?
- In what ways is the metaphor of fire so appropriate to the effects of ungodly speech?
- What are the characteristics of earthly, unspiritual, demonic wisdom? How are these often manifest?
- What are the characteristics of wisdom which is from heaven? What is a commonality between nearly all of the characteristics given?
- How do the characteristics of wisdom guide us into being quick to listen and slow to speak?
- Why is it important to make sure we are heading in the right direction when handling problems before determining the right roads to take? (Using the metaphor adapted from Augustine)
- Why is it important to distinguish between truths that need to be discussed and the Truth that Christ has made known?

**Advancing the Gospel of the Kingdom: Kingdom Culture (Part 2)**

Jerry Cisar — February 13, 2022

Text: James 1:19-20

**Introduction**

- James 1:3-5
- James 1:9-10
- James 1:19-20
- James 2
- James 3

**I. Slow to Speak**

- A. Why should we be slow to speak? (James 3:1-10)
  
- B. Our tongue directs the course of our lives.



- i. Whether we control our tongues or not, it is guiding us into life and peace or death and strife.
- ii. The whole life of church, the body, is directed by the tongues of its members.

C. Don't let the seeming insignificance of the tongue deceive you into neglecting it. (3:5-6)

## II. Slow to Become Angry

- A. The Heart is a Spring that Flows from our Mouths (3:11-12)
  - i. V11 assumes a metaphor of the heart as a spring which flows through the mouth.
  - ii. V12 mixes that metaphor immediately with that of a tree or vine and its fruit. The vine or tree are the heart or spring, and the fruit is the life or deeds of one's life which are directed by the words coming out the mouth.

*To be slow to speak (tongue), we must be slow to become angry!*

- B. James examines what fuels our speech (James 3:13-18).
- C. What are the characteristics of earthly, unspiritual, demonic wisdom?
  - i. Bitter envy

- ii. Selfish-ambition

D. Anger is manipulative.

## III. Quick to Listen

- A. What are the characteristics of the wisdom from heaven?
  - i. Pure
  - ii. Peace-loving, peaceable, or peaceful.
  - iii. Considerate: this word means to be gentle and forbearing.
  - iv. Submissive: this one has to do with "being easily persuaded."
  - v. Full of Mercy and Good Fruit
  - vi. Without partiality
  - vii. Without pretense
- B. Augustine thought like James.
  - i. "Whoever, then, thinks that he understands the Holy Scriptures, or any part of them, but puts such an interpretation upon them as does not tend to build up this twofold love of God and our neighbor, does not yet understand them as he ought."
  - ii. "If, on the other hand, a man draws a meaning from them that may be used for the building up of love, even though he does not happen upon the precise meaning which the author whom he reads intended to express in that place, his error is