

*5 weeks, 5 principles, one book, and that's it. A fresh approach to spiritual growth straight out of the book of James.*

**Growth Questions for 1/24 – 1/31**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. Have you ever said something you regretted? Why did you say it? What happened as a result of you saying it?
3. In verse 1 James offers a warning to teachers. Do you think he is discouraging his hearers from becoming teachers? What was reasoning for including this stern reminder?
4. Discuss the various illustrations that James uses for a person's speech in verses 3-12. How is each of these illustrations applicable? Which do you see as most fitting for your life?
5. In light of your speech on a daily basis would you say that your words bring peace (Roman 12:18) to others or poison (James 3:8)? Why?
6. What steps can you take to tame your tongue and control your speech? Why is this such a difficult process? Why must we continually work on this?

***Proclaim...Reach...Connect...Go***  
***Living on Mission***

1. James speaks of blessing flowing from a person's tongue/speech. Take the time this week and connect with someone you may have offended with your speech and be a blessing to them. Speak kindness and encouragement into their life this week. Consider family, co-workers, friends, past relationships, etc. Seek opportunity to speak a blessing.
2. Consider Colossians 4:6 as a guide to your speech and interaction with others. Take time this week to meditate on this verse and to memorize it.
3. Take time this week to pray for the following...
  - Ask God for the ability to control your tongue and to use your speech as a blessing to others.
  - Thank God for his forgiveness. Ask for the ability to be aware of how your words are delivered.

**Essential James Principles**

**Principle 1**

Wisdom comes from God and it enables you to live a life pleasing to God and at peace with others.

**Principle 2**

Temptation does not come from God, but the strength and ability to resist temptation does.

**Principle 3**

The combination of hearing and doing the word represents spiritual growth and maturity. One compliments the other, but separate both are lacking.

**Principle 4**

From the same mouth comes blessing and cursing. In order to speak blessing we must be controlled by God and not by our flesh.