

**“The tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.” James 3:6**

**Those are strong words! He goes on to tell us that it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. Surely he is making more of this than he should. I certainly don't have that much trouble with my tongue! Think again. As you approach this chapter, let God speak to your heart and renew your mind.**

#### DAY ONE THROUGH DAY TWO

Your assignment for the next two days will be to complete a thorough observation of James chapter 3. Don't miss a thing. It may be a short chapter, but it is a powerful lesson about taming the tongue. Study well.

If you need a reminder of the steps for a chapter study, go back to lesson two for instructions.

#### DAY THREE

Now that you have thoroughly observed chapter 3, today's assignment is to outline the chapter. Don't panic! Don't opt to skip this assignment thinking that it is too hard and not all that important. It is vitally important to watch the flow of thought through this chapter. James has much to teach you about communication, and communication is crucial in your everyday life. It is how we interact with the world and the people in it.

Outlining is simply looking for the main topics and then listing what the author tells you about that topic and illustrations of his point.

Work through this chapter carefully and prayerfully. There should be ample room for you to do your work on the next page.



## DAY FOUR

James starts off chapter three by saying that not many of you ought to be teachers knowing that you are under stricter judgment.

Now before you take a deep sigh of relief and say, “Well, that doesn’t apply to me, because I am not a teacher,” think again. We need to understand what Scripture tells us about each believer, so let’s dig into the truth!

1. Let’s begin with a look at those who are called to be teachers. Biblically, teaching is a spiritual gift given to those who will bring forth the Word of God to others. The following verses will give insight to those who have been given this spiritual gift. Record what you learn from each of these passages. By the way, if you have never taken the course on Spiritual Gifts, you should. You can find the study we did on our website in the class archives here <https://www.walkinlight.net/class-archives>.

a. Romans 12:6-7

b. I Corinthians 12:27-29

c. Ephesians 4:11-16

2. Now, let’s say that you don’t have the gift of teaching, does that exempt you from teaching? Let me ask you these questions. If you haven’t been given the gift of giving, does that mean you are not called to give? If you haven’t been given the gift of mercy, does that mean you don’t have to show mercy? If you haven’t been given the gift of faith, does that mean you don’t have to have faith? So let’s examine the responsibility of every believer in respect to teaching.

a. Galatians 6:1

b. II Timothy 2:24

c. Hebrews 5:12

d. James 5:19-20

e. I Peter 4:11

3. Whether you have been given the gift of teaching or not, you are charged with the command to share the Word of God and to counsel or instruct others in certain situations. At such times, you are assuming the role of teacher, and therefore, are accountable for what you teach. You will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account of what you have done, whether good or bad (II Corinthians 5:10). You need to understand the importance of accountability! So as a pastor, a teacher, or a lay person, you need to understand your responsibility to handle God's Word in each and every situation. Read each passage and record what you learn from each of them. The first one comes with a list of questions to answer.

a. I Corinthians 3:10-17

- 1) What is the foundation and is there any other?

- 2) Who builds on this foundation and how do you build?
- 3) List the building materials described in this passage and put them in two categories? What makes these categories different?
- 4) When is the one that builds held accountable and how is his work judged?
- 5) What is the result of that judgment?
- 6) When a man is building on whose temple is he working? How serious is that work. Be detailed in your answer to that question.

b. I Corinthians 4:1-5

c. Ezekiel 22:26-28

d. Ezekiel 34:1-6

e. I Timothy 1:3-7

4. Take time to summarize all that you have learned in today's study. After you have summarized this material, evaluate how this can and will be applied to your life. Knowledge gained for knowledge's sake puffs a man up. Application causes us to fall on our knees before God and confess how short we fall from attaining His standard of perfection. II Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is profitable for doctrine (teaching, truth), reproof (showing us where we are wrong), correction (instruction on how to correct what is wrong), and instruction in righteousness (showing us the principles, precepts, commands, and truths that we are to live by). What has God shown you?

## DAY FIVE

Today we are going to look at James 3:2. That's right. You're going to devote a day's study to one verse. It is not only important to know what James is saying, but it is also important to know what he is NOT saying! Let's dig in.

James says we all stumble in many ways. He includes himself in this statement. We can all agree that there are many times we do things we shouldn't do and then wonder how we could be so stupid.

1. There are many who say that it is not possible to be perfect, so it is okay to stumble. Do you think James is excusing sin in his life and in the lives of others or is he simply stating a fact? Give your reasoning for your answer using the words of James for your defense.
  
2. "We all stumble (offend) in many ways." Let's look at this phrase piece by piece.
  - a. What exactly is meant by "we all"?
  
  - b. Look up stumble (offend - KJV) in your word study tools. What does it mean?
  
  - c. Stumble is in the present tense. What does that mean?
  
  - d. Go back and read verse 2 in its entirety. Note what the stumbling relates to.
  
3. Look at the following verses and see how they relate to James 3:2.
  - a. Ecclesiastes 7:20

b. I Kings 8:46

c. I Corinthians 4:4

d. I John 1:8

4. Does the fact that we stumble or sin mean that we can casually excuse our sin (missing the mark or falling short of the target)? Answer this from James 3:2 and explain in detail.
  
5. Using word study tools, look at the word for “perfect” in James 3:2. Does the word mean to be completely perfect, never sinning?
  
6. This may seem repetitious, but repetition is the key to learning. So, according to James 3:2,
  - a. is it possible to be a perfect man?
  
  - b. what makes a man perfect according to this verse?
  
  - c. Read James 3:3-8 and see how it relates to James 3:2
  
7. Take time to reflect on all that you have learned this week as you have worked through James 3:1-2.