

New Hope Sunday School: Study of James Lesson 10 – Faith and Speech - James 3: 1-12

James 2	James 3
Faith without WORKS.	Faith without WORDS.
Faith is perfected by works (2:22).	The one who does not stumble in what he says is a perfect man (3:2).
Illustrated by the problem of partiality within the church (2:2-4).	Illustrated by one who blesses God while cursing men (3:9-10).`

Faith and the Teacher

- What kind of teacher is James referring to in verse 1?
- Considering the historical context, what makes this problem different and perhaps more serious than today?
- Why would the teacher be judged with greater strictness?(Luke 12:48;2 Tim 1:13-14;2:2)
- What is the responsibility of the teacher? Ezekiel 33:7-9
- What are some of the ways in which a teacher can fail in their task and incur this judgment? (see the verse above and Romans 2:17-24; Revelation 2:14;1 Peter 5:3)
- How do some who are not “teachers” make themselves teachers?
 - What is the sin that drives us to make ourselves into teachers?
- Why is it so hard to prevent stumbling with our mouth?
- Why would it be especially hard for a teacher to prevent stumbling with their mouth?

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Speech and its affects

- What is the connection made in verse 2 between our speech and control over our body?
- Compare this passage with James 1:26, what is the connection between our speech and our faith?
- What things are similar in the comparison of our speech to the horse and ship?
- What things are different in the comparison of our speech to the horse and ship?
- What is the relationship between these two illustrations and being or acting like a teacher?
 - Wanting to control others
 - Wanting to control events
- How do these illustrations relate to what James said in verse 1?
- Describe how our own use of our speech can have large results?
- How does the Psalmist suggest he will try and control his tongue? (Psalm 39:1)