



**Mirror Moments—Accepting the challenge to look into the truth of God’s Word for the purpose of being devotedly holy, fully faithful and vibrantly fruitful for God’s glory.**

As you step into the Holy Spirit’s examination room this week, do so in light of these encouraging words from Hebrews 4:14-16: “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the

Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. .” NIV

**Some “reflection” suggestions:**

- A. Invite the Holy Spirit to conduct a thorough examination of your heart and mind as you reflect upon what your speech is like. Remember as you do, that **Satan uses guilt to drive you to despair; God uses conviction to lead you to transformation.**
- B. Reread James 3 slowly. Jot down words or phrases that the Spirit is prompting you to pay attention to.
- C. What is God saying to you about . . .

Your spoken words this past week. Think about not only the words themselves but how you said them (tone and volume) and your attitude as you said them. What convictions is God bringing?

- D. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you about your communication through other media such as emails, Facebook, Twitter, texting?
- E. What do you long most for God to do in transforming your heart, mind and speech including media communication?
- F. What “heavenly wisdom” qualities described in James 3:17-18 do you long most for God to plant in your life?



*A verse-by-verse study in James on becoming devotedly holy, fully faithful and vibrantly fruitful in Christ*

**Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Five-Part Sermon Series by Pastor Ron Schultz ♦ August 28; September 11 and 18; October 9 and 23, 2010  
Visit [www.hsdac.us](http://www.hsdac.us) to view past sermons in this series

**Notes for Today’s Message:  
September 18, 2010--Part 3**

**Y**ou cannot live a compartmentalized life as a follower of Jesus Christ. According to James, you cannot split your life up into “religious” and “secular” zones. In the first two chapters of James we saw that all areas matter to God. In James 3, the author drills even deeper into the everyday application of how to live an integrated holy life. In this chapter his message gets really personal. Like a probing physician, James examines our spiritual condition and focuses particularly on our “oral” spiritual health. Hang on. This promises to be a challenging ride and encounter with the Word of God.

**1. Key points thus far:**

- James is to the New Testament was \_\_\_\_\_ is to the old.
- Spiritual fruitfulness requires \_\_\_\_\_.
- Holiness holds in creative tension active caring for others while at the same time not becoming polluted by the world.
- One form of pollution that James particularly warns against is showing \_\_\_\_\_ in the body of Christ.
- Faith and works are complimentary sides to the same door. Both are essential.

**2. James 3:1-2—Warning for those who teach**

“Through the help that Christ can give, we shall be able to learn to bridle the tongue. Surely as He was tried on the point of hasty and angry speech, He never once sinned with His lips. With patient calmness He met the sneers, the taunts, and the ridicule of His fellow workers at the carpenter’s bench.” (Review and Herald, May 26, 1904). {7BC 936.8}

“Dr. Howson observes that ‘there is more imagery drawn from mere natural phenomena in the one short epistle of James than in all Paul’s epistles put together.’” Vincent’s New Testament Word Studies

**3. James 3:3-8--The destructive power of our words**

–The tongue compared to “horse bits”

–The tongue compared to “ship’s rudder”

–The tongue compared to a “spark”

–The taming of the tongue

What might James say about the tongue in an era of emails, Facebook postings, texting and Twitter’s tweets? Might he challenge us to be “slow to hit the send button” and thus tame our compulsion to respond?

**4. James 3:9-12--Confronting our split nature in our split tongues**

–“We praise God” on the one hand

–“We curse men” on the other

–Fresh water and salt water, fig trees and olive trees, grape vines and figs

Romans 7:14-24

Luke 6:45 declares: “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” NKJV

So what is the Spirit’s diagnosis of your tongue’s spiritual health? Do you suffer from “rapid fire tongue disorder” or “sharp tongue syndrome?” Is the Spirit offering you a “tongue `suppressor””? What about the source of your words, your heart? Is it time for God to drain and sanitize the spring?

**5. James 3:13-16--Counterfeit/earthly wisdom**

–Bitter envy and selfish ambition

“One person in an institution or in a church who gives loose rein to unkind thoughts by speaking evil of the brethren, may stir up the worst passions of the human heart, and spread abroad a leaven of evil that will work in all who come into association with him. In this way the enemy of all righteousness gains the victory, and the result of his work is to make of no effect the Saviour’s prayer when He pleaded that His disciples might be one as He is one with the Father.” (Review and Herald, March 12, 1895. {7BC 937.1}

**6. James 3:17-18--Genuine/heavenly wisdom**

–“pure”--from the root word for \_\_\_\_\_

–Other marks of genuine wisdom

Wrap Up: James closes this third chapter on a positive note after diagnosing the problems of our polluted hearts and speech. The biblical cure is for God to transplant heavenly wisdom into our sinful hearts and minds. When we receive this transplanted wisdom, it will bear heavenly fruit that is . . . “pure, considerate, . . . peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy. . . .”