

Dear Friend,

In the first chapter of his epistle, James reveals a truth that is little understood by most church people today.

Jas 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

In context, James has been teaching in that chapter how important it is that we keep looking into the "perfect law of liberty" as if we were looking in a mirror to find out who we really are in Christ. We all know what we look like in the natural. We are terribly familiar with our flaws and shortcomings. But the bible says there is "another man" on the inside of us that was created the moment we were born again. It says in many places that this new man on the inside was created in the image of God. Here is just one of them:

Eph 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. King James Version

Eph 4:24 And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness. Amplified Bible

This new man, this regenerated self, has a new nature that is created in God's image. This new man on the inside is Godlike in true righteousness and holiness. When we look in the mirror of God's Word to find out who we really are as His children ... this is the reflection we see. James is telling us to not always be looking at our flaws and imperfections. That causes us to keep repeating flawed behavior. Instead, we are to keep looking at the new creatures we really are, created righteous and holy by the grace of God.

Now here is the truth that few people grasp: The nature of that new man is released into manifestation when we allow our tongue to agree with God's Word. WE ARE WHO GOD SAYS WE ARE! But Jesus told us in Mark chapter 11 that what we say with our mouths and believe in our heart is what comes to pass in our lives:

Mar 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

James is simply teaching what was first taught by Jesus. What you believe in the heart and say with your mouth is what comes to pass in your life. James says most people quickly forget what the bible says about them being new creatures, made in the image of God at the new birth. Maybe in church they will sing songs about being born again, but during the week they say all kinds of things with their tongue just the opposite like, *"I am so weak. I can't stop drinking. I can't stop overeating. I can't ever seem to succeed. I have the worst luck of anybody I know. I'll never be able to afford much. I'm not a very good person."* Sadly ... we have what we believe in the heart and say with our mouth.

James says if a person does not bridle their tongue to begin speaking what the bible says about them as a

child of God ... their religion will never produce much change in their lives. Their religion is in vain. The Greek word translated vain means, "empty, profitless, useless." Sometimes people think they are lying when they start saying about themselves what the Word of God says about them. Based on Ephesians 4:24 quoted above, every Christian should be saying about themselves:

1. I am created in God's image.
2. I have the nature of God within me.
3. I am a righteous person.
4. I am truly holy.

Most people would not DARE to say that about themselves. Their argument would be, "*Now brother Gary, it would be a lie for me to say that about myself. I am a flawed, sinful creature that does unrighteous and unholy things every day.*" I'm not saying that's not how you have been acting. I am saying that is not who you really are ... not if you have been born again.

Was Abraham lying every time he spoke his name after God changed it from Abram? In the Hebrew language, the name Abraham means "*I am the father of a multitude.*" At that moment, he and Sarai had never had any children of their own. He did not even have one child but God commanded him to begin "calling those things which be not as though they were." Abraham was not lying when he simply said what God had said about him. And notice, Abraham's obedience to "bridle his tongue" and say about himself what God said about him released the power of the Holy Spirit to rejuvenate both his and Sarah's bodies ... to literally reverse the aging process ... to the point they could produce the child Isaac.

James says you can change the direction of your life by bridling your tongue, just like we change the direction of a horse with the reins or change the direction of a ship by turning the wheel. It all begins with bridling our tongue.

Jas 3:3-5 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. (4) Behold also the ships, which though *they be* so great, and *are* driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. (5) Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

Learn to bridle your tongue. It is not easy to do. Our natural tendency is to call things the way they are, not call those things which be not as though they were. You must bridle your tongue the same way you would bridle a horse's tongue. It is unpleasant at first, but the end result is it will change the entire course of your life and lead you into the fulness of all God has for you.

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY