

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: July 19, 2023
James 3:1-12

1. Who should become teachers, according to 3:1?
 - a. All of us.
 - b. Some of us.
 - c. Not many of us.

2. Why shouldn't we all aspire to teachers?
 - a. According to Ephesians 4:11-12 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, we don't all have the gift of teaching and we should receive the gift that God has given us without all trying to be the mouth!
 - b. According to 3:1, we will be judged more strictly!

3. Does this mean we shouldn't share our faith?
 - a. Yes, we're not all gifted this way.
 - b. No, Jesus told us in Matt 28:18-20 to "go and make disciples" and in Acts 1:8 that "You will be my witnesses" and in Matt 5:14 that we "are the light of the world." This can't be referring to whether or not we share our witness.

4. Does this mean that people who aren't teachers have more leeway in how we live and what we say and don't have to live to such a high standard?
 - a. Yeah, that's why I don't want to be a teacher.
 - b. No, God's standard doesn't change.
 - c. While the standard is the same, the consequences of our failure can be different.
 - d. See Ezekiel 3:17-21...

5. What does 3:2 mean?
 - a. Everybody says the wrong things now and then.
 - b. There is a difference between inadvertently offending someone and intentionally saying hurtful things or using language that is inappropriate. We should avoid both, but the first is much more difficult and requires more self-control and self-awareness
 - c. We believe that there is a marked distinction between a pure heart and a mature character. The former is obtained in an instant, the result of entire sanctification; the latter is the result of growth in grace. (Nazarene Manual Paragraph 10.)
 - d. The tongue is the most difficult things to control, so if we are able to exercise self-control in what we say, we will find that self-control in other areas will follow (See verses 3-6).

6. What do verses 3:3-6 mean?
 - a. He is speaking metaphorically about small things with great impact.
 - b. He is talking about the ability of the tongue to have influence, even though it is very small.
 - c. He is explaining why those who teach are judged more strictly.

7. What does James tell us in 3:9-12 regarding the use of our tongue?
 - a. Although it seems common, praises and curses should not flow from the same mouth.
 - b. Two different kinds of water can't flow from the same source
 - c. You know a tree by its fruit (see also Luke 6:43-45).
 - d. What we say says something about who we are.

8. What is flowing out of your heart? _____