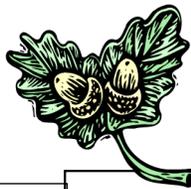


Feb 11, 2018



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**Lesson Leaders:**

James Haymon  
Jose Cisneros

**Class Leaders:**

Inreach: Pat Hester  
Secretary: Mary Clark  
Deacon: C M Hester

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
God's truth is the best protection  
against Satan's lies

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
The shield of faith protects us  
From Satan's fiery darts; And he  
cannot deceive us With God's  
Word in our hearts. —Sper

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*For though I am absent in the flesh,  
yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing  
to see your good order and the  
steadfastness of your faith in Christ*  
(Col 2:5 NKJV)  
*(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 4, 1994)*

**Series: Faith in Action**

**UNIT: Self-Controlled,  
Upright, and Godly Faith**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Faithful Disciples**  
(Acts 9:36-43)

## **A Disciplined Faith** **James 3:1-12**

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson reviews the context and purpose of James's instruction concerning the tongue and why we need to have **A Disciplined Faith**. The study's aim is to call attention to the universal problem of improper and ungodly speech. The study's application is to challenge each of us to guard our speech at all times, realizing that what we say affects every relationship we have in family, church, employment, and social contacts.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

"Bite your tongue!" Did anyone ever tell you this? During my childhood, it was always, "I am going to wash your mouth out with soap and water!" I heard this admonishment when I had said something unkind or inappropriate. I just could not seem to stop myself from saying a certain wrong thing, even though I knew I should not. I lacked the self-control to stop myself. Sadly, this is not an uncommon occurrence. As believers, we are called to have a disciplined faith. We are admonished to demonstrate self-control as part of an obedient walk. It is one of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:23)—proof of a maturing believer—fruit that we are called to cultivate. However, so many of us fail to practice self-control. It seems like an easy thing. We are believers, so we should be able to control whatever we say and do. While it would be great if life worked that way, it often does not. Acquiring and practicing discipline is an ongoing process of hard work. This process requires dedication and a daily death to our own selfish passions and desires. We are called to live in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25), not in the flesh. When we received salvation, our old selves were crucified with Christ; we became new creations and received a new nature. However, the remnants of our old nature still desire to reign over us. We must continually strive to live in the new, not the old. That is why we must ask ourselves what our speech is like. Do our words build up, or do they condemn? Are our words helpful or hurtful? Are they necessary, or are we just spreading rumors? What about our actions? Do they reflect a sense of restraint and prudence, or do they reflect carefulness? Do we consider the consequences of our actions? If actions are consistently impulsive and done without thought, then we are not practicing a life of self-control. We are not thinking about how our actions will affect others. So how do we gain a sense of restraint? God's Word tells us that it is given to us through His grace (Titus 2:11-12). But we have a responsibility to use what we are given. Discipline is one of the tools in the believer's toolbox. If we do not learn how to use it through practice, it does us no good. We have to develop skill in using this tool. If we allow that tool to sit and rust, then we waste it. We are not appreciating the gift as we should. Leading a disciplined life draws us closer to God. As we dedicate ourselves to regular study of His Word and a consistent walk, He is training and molding us into His likeness. As we bathe ourselves in His Word each day and spend time speaking with Him, His will for our lives will unfold ever more clearly. Are you demonstrating discipline in your life today? Are you doing a good job? Or are there areas that need a little more discipline? I would encourage you to take these questions to God in prayer, knowing that He will answer you. When He does, ask Him what to do next. How do you practice the disciplined life He calls you to? Remember that this is a process, but if you are faithful, He will help you become what He calls you to be.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Disciplined Faith Related to Teachers (James 3:1)**

#### *Consider the decision of being a teacher*

Because there is only one true Teacher and that is Jesus (Matt 23:8)

Because as a teacher we should speak what we know and have seen from God (John 3:10-12)

Because to be a teacher, one must have first been taught himself (Rom 2:17-21)

Because God appoints true teachers (1 Cor 12:28)

#### *Consider the accountability of being a teacher*

Accountability to warn and tell others about God's requirements (Ezek 3:18-19)

Accountability of doing God's will when we know it (Luke 12:47-48)

Accountability of faithfulness (1 Cor 4:2)

Accountability of having to give account of those we teach (Heb 13:17)

#### *Consider the judgment of being a teacher*

Judgment of pride (Luke 20:45-47)

Judgment of not understanding what we say or teach (1 Tim 1:5-7)

Judgment of not teaching sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:3-4)

Judgment of not maturing in the Word (Heb 5:12)

Judgment of being a false teacher (2 Peter 2:1)

Judgment of being a stumbling block (Matt 23:15)

### **Disciplined Faith Related to Tongue's Power (James 3:2-8)**

#### *Don't let the tongue make us stumble*

Stumble into condemnation (Matt 12:37)

It is better to lose our tongue than to let it make others stumble (Matt 5:29)

Stumble by living according to the flesh (Rom 8:13)

Stumble by not disciplining our body and bringing it into subjection to God (1 Cor 9:27)

#### *Power of the tongue*

Power to be like a sword (Prov 12:18-19)

Power of life and death (Prov 18:21)

Power to take advantage of others (Jude 16)

Power to defile oneself (Matt 15:11)

Power of poison and deceit (Rom 3:13)

#### *Taming the tongue*

Tame by keeping our tongues from evil (Ps 34:13)

Tame by guarding our tongues and ways (Ps 39:1)

Tame by ensuring our tongues are guided by God (Prov 16:1)

Tame by guarding our mouth (Prov 21:23)

Tame by bridling our tongues (James 1:26)

### **Disciplined Faith Related to Purity of Tongue (James 3:9-12)**

#### *Purity of tongue by rejecting sin*

Rejecting sin because sin makes the tongue cause one to be unclean (Matt 15:11)

Rejecting sin because speaking rashly causes ruin (Prov 13:3)

Rejecting sin because it keeps one from keeping control over their tongues (James 1:26)

Rejecting sin by not allowing our sinful natures to rule (Rom 3:12-14)

#### *Purity of tongue by committing to guard speech*

Commit to seek God to guarding our lips (Ps 141:3)

Commit to God guarding our mouths (Prov 21:23)

Commit to muzzling our speech (Ps 39:1)