

“Bearing Fruit—Part 2”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of July 15, 2023.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a three-part series about “Bearing Fruit.” (This was a follow-up to the series about the parable of the sower.)

The first study discussed scriptures by Paul (Romans 5:1-5), and this study discussed scriptures by James (James 3:13-18). Next week’s study will discuss scriptures by Peter.

At this time, we will look at the second presentation.

Quick background of James 3

The beginning of James 3 (verses 1-12) discussed how the tongue can be a huge challenge to people.

James 3:5—“The tongue is a little member and boasts great things.”

James 3:8—“No man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

While James 3:1-12 certainly gives strong warnings about the abuse of the tongue, let me quickly mention six sections of verse about the tongue—to give you a fuller picture about the tongue topic.

- John 8:44—The sinless Son of God used strong words.
- Acts 23:1-5—Paul did not regret speaking strongly, but he certainly regretted speaking strongly to the high priest.
- Romans 12:17-21—No revenge.
- 2 Corinthians 11:20—Recognize religious people trying to control you.
- Ephesians 4:26-27—Be angry, but don’t sin.
- 2 Timothy 4:14-15—No revenge. Beware of certain people.

Meekness of wisdom

- James 3:13—James taught that our actions should be done in the meekness of wisdom.

- Matthew 22:39—God expects us to love ourself—oftentimes described as having self-respect.
- Philippians 2:3—From a foundation of self-respect, we should esteem other people better than ourselves.

Envy and strife

- James 3:14-16—James taught that we should avoid envy and strife.

The Greek word for “envy” is *zelos* (Strong’s No. 2205), which is a noun that can mean the positive characteristic of zeal and ardent concern or the negative characteristic of jealousy, envy and rage. In this verse, it is obviously meaning envy.

The Greek word for “strife” is *eritheia* (Strong’s No. 2052), which is a noun that can mean selfish ambition, faction and strife. I find it interesting that the King James Version uses the obvious word “strife”—while the New King James uses the phrase “self-seeking.”

Earthly, sensual, devilish

- James 3:15—James warned that envy and strife are earthly, sensual and devilish.

The Greek word for “devilish” (in the King James and “demonic” in the New King James) is *daimoniodes* (Strong’s No. 1141), a description that means of the devil and demonic—used only for this verse.

The noun variation *daimonion* (Strong’s No. 1140) is translated devils or devil 59 times.

Bible students are aware that these two Greek words are different from *diabolos* (Strong’s No. 1228), which is translated devil 35 times.

Wonderful positive traits

In James 3:17, the author listed eight positive traits.

- Pure
- Peaceable
- Gentle
- Willing to yield
- Full of mercy
- Full of good fruits
- Without partiality
- Without hypocrisy

James 3:18—“The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”