

## **THE EPISTLE OF JAMES – (James 3:1-12)**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Zenith's motto says, "The quality goes in before the name goes on." That is the standard by which they have measured quality for years. Each product has to meet the standard of quality before it gets the privilege of bearing the company's name. Zenith highly values its name and seeks to arouse consumer confidence by encapsulating this quality control tool. As to say, if you see our name on it, you can be assured that it is a quality product. In light of that, God himself has a similar standard for Christians.

Everyone who is wearing the name Christian has not been quality controlled and thereby might not be the real thing. Yet, God has a quality control system in his Word that all "so called" Christians must undergo to determine if the quality gone in before they put the name on. The book of James is God's quality control book that lays out a series of tests to determine if the quality has gone in. In other words, do you have genuine and authentic faith? Are you really a Christian?

That is the objective of the Epistle of James. James writes to authenticate faith. Are you a real Christian? Take the tests from the Book of James on authentic faith:

- Reveals Joy during Trials 1:1-12
- Takes Responsibility for Sin 1:13-15
- Practices Self-Control 1:19-21
- Obeys the Word not just Listen 1:22-25
- Does not practice Partiality 2:1-10
- Shows Faith by Works 2:14-20
- Relies on Godly Wisdom 3:13-18
- Does not befriend the World 4:1-4
- Submits to God and Resists the Devil 4:5-10
- Properly Anticipates Tomorrow 4:13-15
- Does Good instead of Evil 4:17
- Has the Right Perspective of Wealth 5:1-6
- Anticipates the Coming of the Lord 5:7-12
- Prays Right 5:13-20

Notwithstanding, there is another test that is missing from the list, which I intentionally left out because it is the emphasis of our lesson today. Furthermore, out of all the other tests, this is the only one that James repeats or infers in every chapter (1:19, 1:26, 2:7, 2:14, 3:1-12, 4:11, 5:12). It is as if the Holy Spirit through James sees this as the most important of them all. That is the test of the tongue. The mark of authentic, mature faith for every Christian is that they control their mouths. Until your tongue has become tame, you are considered at best, an immature Christian, or at worst, it can prove that you are not even a Christian at all. Genuine faith controls the tongue.

**Lesson: “Taming the Tongue”**

**Text: James 3:1-12**

**I. The Tongue has Power to Condemn - 3:1**

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**II. The Tongue has Power to Conform – 3:2**

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**III. The Tongue has Power to Control – 3:3-5**

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**IV. The Tongue has Power to cause Catastrophe – 3:6-8**

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**V. The Tongue has Power to Contradict – 3:9-12**

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**VI. The Tongue can be Cured – 3:8**

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