

Review:

Lesson 1: Faith & Adversity

Lesson 5: Faith & Works

Lesson 2: Faith & Temptations

Lesson 3: Faith & God's Word

Lesson 4: Faith & Equality

Faith and Speech

James 3:1-12

*Authentic faith helps me understand that perhaps I do not need to _____
my _____ about people I've never met, in a place I've never been, about
a subject with which I have little experience.*

Discussion 1. What is it in us that makes us want to offer unsolicited counsel or opinions or advice? How can you discern whether that counsel is given to you by the Lord or, rather, is just from your own worldly heart?

*Controlling my _____ (i.e., my speech) is the beginning of self-control.
And it is a huge, HUGE beginning.*

Discussion 2. What kinds of people or circumstances tend to push your buttons, so that guarding your tongue becomes a challenge? For you, what is harder, controlling your speech or controlling your actions? Why?

*Our words, whether written or spoken, all have the power to either _____
others up or to _____ others down. Authentic faith weighs all my words according to
that standard.*

Discussion 3. If you were to make "every word" you speak helpful for building others up, what current speech of yours would be impacted the most? Speech with family? At work? On social media?

For the Christ follower, self-control begins with controlling our speech. And controlling my speech begins with changing how I _____ about myself and about others, i.e., being "transformed by the renewing of the mind".

Discussion 4. What kinds of spiritual disciplines have you found most helpful or impactful in your life for purposes of changing how you think about yourself or about others?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?