



CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	James 3	Title: Controlling the Tongue God's Way
Author	Ps Li Cuixian	
Summary of Chapter	James pointed out the dangers of the uncontrolled tongue. He ended off stating that to live an honourable life believers need the wisdom of God.	

Key Verse(s) NIV	How does it speak to me?
<p><i>² Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.</i></p> <p><i>¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others...</i></p>	<p>James highlighted that the tongue is hard to control and we make many mistakes with our tongue. It might be small yet could be powerfully destructive. We cannot use it to praise God and say nasty things to others at the same time. In his conclusion, James called the believers to live an honourable life by doing good deeds. Deeds that come from God's wisdom which is pure, peace-loving, gentle, and so on. Indeed, to control our tongue, we need the wisdom of God to act in the way that will honour Him. I believe this is the way to control our tongue God's way—with the wisdom of God.</p> <p>As a forthright person, I tend to speak my mind without filter. I can be very direct and blunt. Words are blurted out without much thought. Once I was told something about my mother and I confronted her upon reaching home. She went hysterical. I did not even try to hear her side of the story. I simply reacted to what I heard. I was traumatized by the after effect; I regretted the incident so much.</p> <p>Over the years, I have learnt to not be so quick to speak, rather to ask the Lord for an understanding for the person's behaviour. The Lord granted me wisdom to be curious about the story behind the person first. Many times, after hearing the story, I can approach the matter empathetically. I still make mistakes and still need to work hard at being slow to speak and quick to listen. There is still the tendency to lapse into a quick emotional conclusion and judgement. Though I might not be able to change this side of me, I know I can be Spirit-controlled when I seek God's wisdom first.</p>

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	How would you tame your tongue in view of today's reading?
Youth:	What steps have you taken to control your tongue when you are upset? Does it work? What other steps can you take? Ask your friends what is helpful for them.
Child:	When you are upset, will you try counting to 30 slowly before you say anything?

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Thank you, Lord, for giving Your wisdom to anyone who ask of You. Your wisdom, which is pure, peace-loving and gentle, will give us understanding and knowledge to respond in kindness to others. Teach us each day to seek Your face and know Your way. In Jesus' name, Amen!
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.