

Review:

A mature, complete/perfect believer is one who has mastered the control of his/her tongue.

- **James 3:2 (NASB)** ²For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

How can I control my tongue when I am.....

Angry at someone? –

- “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger” (Prov. 15:1).
- **Colossians 3:8 (KJV)**
⁸But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
- **Colossians 4:6 (KJV)**
⁶Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Seeking revenge/retaliation? –

- **Romans 12:14 - 21 (NASB)**
¹⁶Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.
¹⁷Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.
¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
¹⁹Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.
²⁰“BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.”
²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

In receipt of fresh, juicy gossip? –

- **Proverbs 20:19 (NLT)**
¹⁹ A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang around with chatterers.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:11 - 13 (NASB)**
¹¹For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.
¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.
¹³But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.
- **1 Timothy 5:13 (NASB)**
¹³At the same time they also learn *to be* idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper *to mention*.

Anxious to correct or criticize someone? –

Ephesians 4:15 (NASB)

¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) ²⁹Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Ephesians 4:29 (KJV) ²⁹Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Wisdom from heaven

James 3:13 - 18 (NASB)

¹³Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

¹⁵This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

¹⁸And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

| Two Types of Wisdom | |
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| Wisdom From Below | Wisdom From Heaven |
| <p><i>Characterized by:</i> Bitter envy (v. 14) Selfish ambition (v. 14) Boasting (v. 14) Denying the truth (v. 14) Being earthly-minded (v. 15) Being unspiritual (v. 15) From the devil (v. 15)</p> | <p><i>Characterized by:</i> Purity (v. 17)—personal transparency or holiness Peaceable (v. 17)—willing to sacrifice for peace Considerate (v. 17)—gentle, not seeking its own way Willing to yield (v. 17)—agreeable, willing to reevaluate, open Merciful (v. 17)—compassionate Impartial (v. 17)—single-minded toward God and people Sincere (v. 17)—without hypocrisy</p> |
| <p><i>Resulting in:</i> Disorder (v. 16) Evil practices/actions (v. 16)</p> | <p><i>Resulting in:</i> Good fruit (v. 17) Righteousness/good actions (v. 18)</p> |

What we are is what we live, and what we live is what we sow. What we sow determines what we reap.

- If we live in God's wisdom, we sow righteousness and peace, and we reap God's blessing. If we live in man's worldly wisdom, we sow sin and war, and we reap "confusion and every evil work."
- It is a serious thing to be a troublemaker in God's family. One of the sins that God hates is that of sowing "discord among brethren" (read Prov. 6:16-19). Lot followed the world's wisdom and brought trouble to the camp of Abraham; but Abraham followed God's wisdom and brought peace. Lot's decision led to "good-for-nothing works," and everything he lived for went up in smoke at the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham's decision, in the wisdom of God, led to blessings for his own household and ultimately for the whole world (read Gen. 13).

MONDAY MORNING MOMENT: Action Step

"Origin determines outcome. Worldly wisdom will produce worldly results; spiritual wisdom will give spiritual results."

Ask God for wisdom in everything this week.

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Prov. 3:13).