

James 3:10

Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

Reading James' words in today's verse which says, *out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing*, and if you think about, you have the choice and the ability to choose which one will come out of your mouth, a *blessing* or a *curse*.

James goes on to say:

† **James 3:12** *Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.*

So think of the *blessing* as *fresh* water and the *curse* as *salt* water. Our mouths are that *spring* of water, with the things we say producing refreshing, sweet, cool water that someone wants to drink from, or it can also produce hot, salty water, that never quenches anyone's thirst. We also know that a spring cannot produce both salty water, and refreshing water at the same time. It's impossible, and if we are the spring that the water is flowing from, then our speech should be one or the other as well.

Yet do we say sweet blessings to the Lord that are like fresh water flowing down from a mountain stream, then turn around and say mean hateful words to, or about others. Words that tear down and hurt others, so salty that they are like pouring salt into wounds? Also if you think about it, if you do both, it will water down the salty water, but it would still be salty water. It would be like singing a beautiful love song and the lyrics containing profanity at the same time. The world loves those types of songs, but we as Christians can't stand them and wouldn't sing them. So why do we talk them?

Or think of it this way; What if speaking good encouraging words to others that builds them up and edifies someone's would be like a nice cool drink of water to someone hurting or needs those words of encouragement. As on the other hand speaking mean hateful words to others is like pouring steaming hot water on someone causing them pain. Once again, you could mix the cool water with the hot water, and what would you end up with? Lukewarm water, and doesn't that sound familiar?

† **Revelation 3:16** *So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*

This verse is referring to those who live a sinful lifestyle and Christian lifestyle, going back and forth all the time, living a double life as a sinner and saint, never choosing which one they are.

Well, when we say encouraging things and mean things all the time, are we not doing the same thing?

Does gossip (Hot water) pour out of your mouth in church as you gossip about your brothers and sisters in the Lord, and then you go in and sing beautiful words of praise (Cool water) to the Lord? Remember that cursing does not always mean profanity, because you can tear someone down without using any four letter words.

So, once again, we all have the ability to *curse* or *bless* others with what we say and how we say it. Whichever one you choose, just be consistent, and if you choose to be a blessing with your words, ask the Lord to help you, because it's not always easy.

† **James 3:8-9** *But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.*

† **James 1:19-20** *So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*