Note the similarity of James to the "Wisdom Literature" of the Old Testament

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Note how we've jumped from how the rich are treated to the place of works in justification to one's management of the tongue

Consider the Importance of the Tongue:

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It's small in size but has large effects!

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The sign of a "perfect" (complete, mature) man is that he can control it

Our speech, generated by the tongue is like fire!

Our speech, generated by the tongue is like fire!

It's like fire in that it's so destructive!

Our speech, generated by the tongue is like fire!

It's like fire in that it's so destructive!

It's like fire in that it spreads like wildfire!

The Difficulty of Controlling the Tongue:

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All types of creatures can be tamed—animals, birds, reptiles, sea creatures

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The small tongue is "unruly", spewing out poison in every direction

The Duplicity of the Tongue:

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In addition to its "unruliness", it's also forked!

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This is incongruous with how it ought to be

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Christians should not exhibit a Dr Jekyl/Mr Hyde split personality in our speech!

The Duplicity of the Tongue:

Examples of This Duplicity:

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We bless God but curse man who bears His image

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We bless God but curse man who bears His image

It's like a fountain that puts out sweet & bitter water

The Duplicity of the Tongue:

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It's like a tree that bears two kinds of fruit

The Duplicity of the Tongue:

Examples of This Duplicity:

We bless God but curse man who bears His image

It's like a fountain that puts out sweet & bitter water

It's like a tree that bears two kinds of fruit

It's like a fountain that puts out salty & fresh water

Conclusion:

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It's from the heart that the tongue speaks

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If the speech is divided, so is the heart

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A Christian should have a "pure" heart

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It's from the heart that the tongue speaks

If the speech is divided, so is the heart

A Christian should have a "pure" heart

Only speech that is edifying, truthful & blessed should proceed from our lips!