



Part 1: Flipping the Switch

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James 3:9-12

⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs?

The Answer to James' Questions: No.

The Question For This Series:

Does your faith have an On/Off switch?

Scripture is full of people who had a switch:

David - Lust

Saul - Pride

Noah - Lack of self-control

Moses - Anger

Aaron - Cowardice

Martha - Busyness

Gideon - Fear

Peter - Denial

The goal of this series is **not** behavior modification.

The goal of this series is Christ transformation.

(Continues on back)

Colossians 3:1-10

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Homework For Next Week

Over the coming weeks, we are going to hear the Apostle Paul discuss “the switch” in Romans 6-8. Read Romans 1-5 in preparation for disconnecting the switch.

Next Steps

Christ transformation happens best in community with other believers who can encourage you, admonish you, and share the journey of growth along with you. Today we're ending the service early so you can explore tons of options for community at our Groups Fair in the Meeting Place. Don't miss this opportunity to meet people, ask questions and discover why community is so important to your personal growth.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What kind of things set you off? How do you usually express emotion when your switch gets flipped?
- 2) The obvious answer to the questions in James 3:11-12 is “no.” Do you think James is suggesting that we are capable of mastering our mouths? Is he just posing a question for us to think about? Does he offer any wisdom to tame our tongue? (For more insight, read some of the verses that come before and after this passage.)
- 3) Can you add any examples to Grant's list of people in the Bible who were known for their contradictory words or actions? What was their switch?
- 4) Read Colossians 3 out loud. Which statements in this passage keep it from being simply a list of behavior modifications? What are some of the principles that keep it focused on Christ transformation?
- 5) What do you need prayer for right now?

OUR MISSION | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.