

**STUDY QUESTIONS FOR
*THE HEALTHY SOUL, PART 8: ASSESSMENT BY MOUTH***

Introduction

1. Describe a situation where you heard someone say something that surprised you, which revealed some inward reality of that person's soul. It could be a good thing or a bad thing. (ex. Mel Gibson mouthing off, someone publicly forgiving another)
2. If you feel free to do so, share a moment when you were surprised at something which came out of your own mouth.
3. How should we be cautious about over-interpreting what comes out of our mouths? Can folks be allowed a do-over? Can we say: "He/she is just having a bad day?"
4. Name some public critiques of public figures which you thought were beyond the pale.
5. Have you ever been called a moron by another Christian? How did you respond?

James 3:7-10

1. If no one can tame the tongue, how can we be commanded to tame the tongue?
2. Tongues cannot decide anything and so are not moral. What did James mean by calling it "evil and full of deadly poison"? Ever poisoned someone or something with your tongue? Are you lying right now?
3. Give examples of how both blessing and cursing can come from the same mouth. Why does James say this "ought not to be?" HINT: James 3:11-12
4. How does the above passage in James help us extinguish the behavior of having opposite things come out of our own mouths?

James 3:14-16

1. What does James mean by "lying against the truth?"
2. Describe some ways that the world, the flesh, and the devil influence our world view. How is that seen in our speech?
3. Name some examples where Christians have not successfully screened out jealousy and selfish ambition, perhaps even in the pursuit of ministry.

James 3:15, 17-18

1. How do we discern wisdom that is from above from that which is from below? Ever smell the stink of the devil on a word or deed?
2. Share a story of how the Lord gave you victory in a tense or contentious relationship.
3. How do we lay a foundation of heavenly wisdom in our lives so that it will direct our behavior? Share some methods which have helped you.
4. Share a key moment in your walk with Christ where the Holy Spirit brought a marked inward change in the health of your soul.