## James:  A Handbook on Holiness

## The Fact of Human Impotence

## James 3:1-5

## General outline:

1.

## The  Way to Holiness:  The Divine Perspective 1:2-27

1.

The  Trial-Temptation Complex 1:2-18

2.

The  Word of God 1:19-27

3.

**The Principles of Holiness: The Biblical Framework 2:1-26**

1.

The Law is the Structure of Holiness 2:1-13

2.

Faith is the Dynamics of Holiness 2:14-26

3.

**The Implementation of Holiness: The Christian Experience 3:1-4:10**

1.

The Obstacle to Victory: Human Impotence 3:1-9

1.

The Fact of Human Impotence 3:1-5

2.

The Root of Human Impotence 3:6-9

## James 3:1-5

### The Warning

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

### The Ground

2 For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

### The Illustrations

3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

**Discussion Questions:**

1.

V. 1: Should every Christian *seek* to become a teacher? Consider 1 Cor. 12:29, 31; 1 Tim. 3:1-2. _____ Should every Christian *be* a teacher? _____

2.

V. 2: Why does James say not many should become teachers? _____

3.

Vv. 3-5: How are the tongue's effects like that of a

1.

Bit in a horses' mouth? _____

2.

Ship's rudder? _____

3.

Small fire? _____

4.

Where this week have you let your tongue get out of control? Where has it set something on fire? Ask God to help you control your tongue.