

Part 1 – Our Lips are a Tool

In chapter eleven, part 1, we learned when we are to flee and how we are to fight spiritually. Just as there was a time for David to flee, so too is there a time for us to flee. And for us living today, that time will be when Satan is on earth, ruling the world from Jerusalem. If we happen to be in Jerusalem at that time, we need to get out of there (per Jesus' command) because the true Jesus Christ will be returning to that city and He'll destroy it all. Further, Jesus also told us that, during the 'tribulation of the antichrist' (when Satan is on earth pretending to be the Savior of the world) it's also ok for us to flee from one city to another so we can continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, because all the world must be warned (the Gospel *will* be preached to the *entire* world) before the *true* Jesus Christ returns. We also learned that spiritual warfare is done with words. The wicked are ever ready to 'bend their bow' and shoot lies into our heart (desires, emotions, intentions) and mind (thought process) to try and drag us into the same darkness they are living in (delusion and confusion). And this is what we must be on guard for. Psalms 91 tells us that God's Word is our 'shield and buckler' that spiritually protects us from all the 'arrows' the wicked shoot at us. So, we must continue to study God's Word daily and build a strong connection to our Heavenly Father (through Jesus Christ – the Word of God and His Holy Spirit) so we are able to fight in this spiritual war and not fall to the lying words that the wicked 'shoot' at us.

In part 2 we learned that, even when the foundations of the settled order of truth or institutions (the governments and religious organizations of the earth) are destroyed (corrupted), God is still on His throne, in His holy temple, and He sees all that's going on. We also learned that He allows the wicked to remain for the purpose of testing His children, to get them off the fence of indecision and make a choice to follow either Jesus Christ (truth/Light) or Satan's rebellion (lies/darkness). We also learned that Jesus Christ is forming His righteous, un-corruptible and eternal government (the Body of Christ) *right now* and that He *will* rule with those who remain faithful to Him when He returns to the earth to take control of it. So, even though the wicked appear to be 'getting ahead' now, they truly are 'digging their own graves'. We also learned that God truly does hate the wicked but that does not mean He is unrighteous because His hatred is always righteous as it never causes Him to do wickedly. We also learned it's a righteous thing for us to hate evil and love the good; we just need to make sure we don't let hatred cause our heart to become corrupted, which is why we must forgive others from the heart and strive to treat all people in accordance to His righteous Word. We also learned that, despite God's hatred for the wicked, He still loves them, which is why He continues to call them to repent. However, because He is righteous and holy, He does punish the wicked and reward the righteous, even now. We also learned the 'cup' (rewards or judgment) of the wicked will be to be spiritually consumed by God's righteous mouth when Jesus Christ returns to take control of the earth, and the internal heat they'll feel in their soul is likened to a hot oven that scorches them spiritually. We also learned that God loves righteousness because He is righteousness and that's why those who cleave to Him (striving to do what's right through following His Word and His Holy Spirit) are always in His vision; He takes very good care of them despite the persecutions that come from the wicked.

We now move on to a new chapter which will speak about the vanity of flesh man and David's prayer for deliverance from the ungodly...

Psalm 12

1 A Psalm of David.

Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

This is another Psalm of David and he begins this one by asking the Lord (YHVH) for help. The word '**help**' here is *yasha'* (#3467), a primitive root that means: **to be open, wide or free**, i.e. (by implication) **to be safe**; causatively, **to free or succor**. To succor means relief, aid or help – it's something that furnishes relief. And truly, our Heavenly Father is the only one who can help us from the ungodly men (and women) who are so prevalent in this world. And when David says here that the 'faithful' fail from the children of men, he's speaking about those who are faithful to the one and only true God Almighty (YHVH). This is easily seen in our day and age. Only a few decades ago, Christianity was a common 'religion' among most people in the Christian nations but that has been eroded away rather rapidly thanks to the 'foundations' being destroyed (as David spoke about in the last chapter). Our governments, education systems, media and, even the Churches have been so corrupted, from the inside out, that there are truly few people left who truly stick to the Word of God. While many claim they are still Christian, few try to adhere to the principles in it and even fewer actually study it. Instead, most people try to 'get ahead' in the world by following the traditions of man that are taught in the Churches, and in the school systems, and pushed by the media and entertainment industries. But these principles and doctrines are not founded upon God's Word. That's our problem.

So, we see how truly relevant Eccl 1:9 is, which says: *the thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun*. Just as ungodly men (and women) were more common than the godly man (those who follow the one and only true God, through Jesus Christ) in David's day, so too it is in this day and age. It's not hard for people to become corrupted during the 'good times' because they simply forget who gives the blessings. The 'song of Moses' in Deut 32 also speaks about this for God knew it would happen. So, it should not be surprising for us to see it happening all around us, albeit it is grievous to see. God also warned about this in the book of Isaiah...

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger; they are gone away backward.

5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

7 Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

Isa 1:2-7

God points out that His children continue to rebel against Him and this is what causes our governments to be corrupt and our countries to be desolate, burned with fire and strangers (illegal immigrants) to devour and overthrow us in our own nation. And all of this happens because, as verse 4 points out: we are a sinful nation(s), people who are laden with iniquity and corrupters who have forsaken our only true source of life, YHVH (and His Son, Jesus Christ). And we are helped in this degradation of our country (and our hearts) by those who are truly the ‘seed of evildoers’ [**Saga of the Disobedient Figs** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/295>]. A couple chapters later, God says...

1 For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water; [Amos 8:11]

2 The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient,

3 The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator.

*4 And **I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them.***

5 And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another; and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable....

*...6 As for my people, **children are their oppressors, and women rule over them.** O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.*

Isa 3:1-5, 12

Indeed, the honorable counselors (Christian men and women) are taken away from us because the wicked people, in all aspects of life, absolutely refuse to allow anyone who truly stands for Jesus Christ to have positions in high authority; they try to silence Christians *everywhere*. That’s why we’re left with people who are mentally (and morally) as weak as children and women. Note here: God is not slamming women. He knows they too can be strong Christians but the point He is making is that: because women are *typically* less physically stronger (and at times less emotionally stronger) than men, He uses them (along with children) to explain the kind of people that will rule the Christian nations when the government and the citizenry become spiritually corrupted. And it is noteworthy that, even though more and more women have predominant positions in society, our society has not gotten any better. It’s actually gotten worse. So, simply putting women in power is not the solution. It’s what is in their heart and mind that matters. So, if you don’t have true Christians (regardless of race or gender) governing, then it does not matter how many people of other races, or women, get into power, things won’t get better. It’s funny that those who tout ‘equality’ don’t seem to understand that the most important

part of that is what their morals are. They totally look this part over and truly judge people based upon their race, or gender, *alone* [they do the opposite of what they claim they do, of course]. So, here we are with many people of all races, and women, in positions of power and things are only getting worse (the ungodly are growing in number) and the godly people pretty much are non-existent in positions of power. That's what happens when we kick Jesus Christ out of all our institutions in society, including the government to our schools. And the reason we allow this is because people are increasingly denying Jesus Christ as the King of all kings and YHVH as the God of all gods. We cannot kick Christian principles out of our governments (and other institutions in society) and expect to have a righteous government that really cares about us or schools that teach good morals. As Gal 6:7 says: *be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*. And 'reaping' we are...

Psalm 12

2 They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

This is the consequence of ungodly people abounding in society. When you kick Jesus Christ (yea, even the mention of 'God') out of all aspects of society, you are not going to get anything good from it. This is why so many people speak 'vanity' to each other. This is obvious to see in the governments and media (even in the entertainment industries) but it's also prevalent in schools, the medical community, economics and even Churches today. The word '**vanity**' here is *shav'* (#7723) and it means: **evil** (as destructive), literally (**ruin**) or **morally** (especially guile); figuratively **idolatry** (as false, subjective), **uselessness** (as deceptive, objective; also adverbially, **in vain**). Because more and more people are forsaking belief in Jesus Christ the 'ungodly' are increasing. And, consequently, more and more people (from the government to the common citizen) speak 'vanity' with each other. People used to be unafraid to speak the truth but not anymore. People hid their true feelings and always try to be 'nice' to each other. While there is certainly nothing wrong with being nice to people, it should be done with *great* discernment and discretion. After all, nowhere in God's word are we told to *pretend* to be 'nice' to people [in fact, it's not even a direct command from God or Jesus Christ. Being 'kind' is written of in the New Testament but not 'nice']. And Jesus Himself told us we are to be the 'salt' of the earth (Mth 5:13). What does that mean? Even today we still use the analogy of someone being 'salty' if they are not afraid to speak their mind at the risk of offending people. Truth is going to offend some people, maybe even a lot of people in this generation. But, that should not stop us from speaking it. If we have to stop speaking truth at the risk of offending people then something is wrong inside of us. Further, many people are 'nice' to others but then they go on and speak very badly about them to others. This is blatantly against God's Word...

16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Lev 19:16-18

And while speaking ‘vanity’ does include speaking badly about others (taking up a ‘reproach’ against them, Ps 15:3), it also includes useless (vain) words, even words about our idols. Far too many people are consumed with idols, which are simply ‘things’ (anything) they ‘love’. It can be money, your house, your car, your favorite ice cream, past time or even ‘self’. Most people truly love themselves more than God Almighty and as such, they allow themselves to be manipulated by those who are truly wicked into falling away from the Christian principles that teach us to do what’s right, from the heart (sincerely). And because Churches don’t teach much truth anymore, most people see the hypocrisy that has risen in the Churches. Yet, they don’t actually try to seek truth from the Bible themselves. Instead, they turn to ‘things’ (anything) that they ‘enjoy’ to make them feel better. Many people live their lives simply to try and make a lot of money so they can continue to indulge in entertainment and other fleshly pleasures that truly, just corrupt our heart and mind more and more.

And so, people like (really love) to complain about how bad things are getting in our country (and they are) but *it’s our own doing*. We have allowed these things to happen because we (from generation to generation) don’t obey God’s Word like He told us to. So, the cursings we get and this is obvious to anyone who actually takes time to read them in Lev 26 and Deut 28. This is why people lie to each other so much. It’s why many love to talk about useless, vain things (like entertainment or politics that never go anywhere), etc. And, indeed, they speak with ‘flattering lips’ and a ‘double heart’. The word ‘flattering’ here is *chelqah* (#2513), which means: *smoothness*; figuratively, *flattery*; also an *allotment*. Flattery is simply insincere or excessive praise. It can also be showing or expressing gratifying respect or admiration to someone. And people indeed do this with ‘smooth’ words. That’s why they have a ‘double heart’. What is a ‘double heart’? It is when you still think with your carnal mind (Rom 8). When you don’t learn to subdue your carnal mind (your heart – the part of you that wants to sin) then *it will control you* instead of *you controlling it*. As such, people say things to others that they don’t really mean only to try to get them to do something for they want, or to believe a certain way. And this is not only done by politicians; it’s done by the common citizen. So again, the same people who talk ‘nice’ to one person will go on to the next person they see and speak badly about them. They ‘back bite’ their neighbor without any reservations! James 1:8 warns us that *a double minded man is unstable in all his ways*. So, people like this just can’t be trusted (because their ‘mind’ is subject to change quickly) and people figure this out, the hard way. Complaining and talking bad about others (gossip) are two *very* prevalent ‘vanities’ amongst the ungodly people. James has much to say about this...

8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

*9 Therewith **bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men**, which are made after the similitude of God.*

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

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. [Mth 7:15-20]

*13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? **let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.***

*14 **But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.***

*15 **This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.***

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

James 3:8-18

How well does James explain what David is saying of the ungodly people who are becoming more and more in this world. It's due to 'bitter envying and strife' in our own hearts that we consistently speak bad about people... even though we're 'nice' to their face. James points out that this 'wisdom' is not from God Himself, it's from the Devil himself. True wisdom (which only comes from God's Word) is without partiality and without hypocrisy. We should treat all people (good, bad and the ugly) according to God's Laws, not according to how we 'feel' about them... after all, our 'feelings' are very subject to change! So, we must be on guard against these kinds of 'double minded' people because they can't be trusted. And further, we should strive very hard not to be like this ourselves. That's why we need to study God's Word consistently and strive *sincerely* to put His principles to work in our life, *from the heart*. **Be sincere.** Don't give compliments that are not sincere nor use words with guile. As James 5:12 says, *let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.* And Prov 15:28 also tells us: *the heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.*

Psalms 12

3 The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:

David now responds to his complaint about the ungodly people speaking vanity with flattering lips and a double heart: he points out that God will cut off those who 'flatter' with their lips and speak proud things (some people really have an 'I' problem). Prov 10:31 also tells us that *the mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.* How does God do this? Well, He simply *allows* 'bad things' that they are creating for themselves (through malicious gossip, slander and boastings) to come back and 'bite the in the ass' (so to speak). Again, as Gal 6:7 says: *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* And again, this is not only common place amongst politicians but people in all walks of life. From the clergy, to those in corporations, to professors, to the common citizen... many people 'flatter' and speak proud things. In other words, *they tear down others just to build*

themselves up. Know anyone like this? Are *you* like this? If we love Jesus Christ, we *should not* be like this. As it is written...

Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.
Prov 16:19

Proverbs gives such good, concise, advice in life and this simple sentence says so much. It is better to be humble (and live within your means) instead of trying to puff yourself up so you can get the 'better job' and make more money, only for others to find out you are incompetent and fire (or demote) you, which will cause more disgrace than you had to begin with!

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isa 57:15

God Himself tells us that those who He 'dwells with' (those He puts His Holy Spirit into) are of a contrite (crushed, #1793) and humble spirit. Psalms 25 also gives a list of the characteristics people who dwell with God Almighty have. These are the kind of people who 'crush' (subside, even kill) their carnal mind so they are not double minded (hearted). And He will 'revive' the spirit of those who are so, because they love Him sincerely and don't puff themselves up against Him or His children. In other words, we can't have peace of mind, or joy in our heart, when we build ourselves up and scorn others.

11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Matt 23:11-12

Jesus points out that those who will reign with Him in the Millennium, and eternity, are those who humble themselves to serve others. This doesn't mean we are to be a 'walking matt' for others, but with humility (not lording over others) we are to share the truth as the opportunity arises (Eph 5:15-16, Col 4:5-6). We need to learn to discipline ourselves not to react to flattering, or harsh, words in ways that go against God's Word. Pray for discernment and the Holy Spirit will teach you how to do what's right, no matter what situation comes up in life (John 16:13).

*6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.***

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother; speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

12 There is one lawgiver; who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

James 4:6-12

In verse 6, James quotes Prov 3:34, which says; *Surely he scorneth the scorers: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.* The word ‘resisteth’ here in James means *to range oneself against*, i.e. *oppose* (#3498). Simply put, God does not bless those who are proud in heart; He’ll allow the cursings to come upon them until (hopefully) they are humble enough to turn back to Him in sincerity. But, He gives His grace (His Holy Spirit and blessings) to those who are humble. And it is hard to remain humble when people flatter you **or** when they attack your character. But that’s why self-discipline is one of the ‘fruits’ of the Holy Spirit. It’s translated as ‘temperance’ in Gal 5:23 and in 2 Pt 1:6 also, which tells us that self-control leads to godliness. And *if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins* (2 Peter 1:8-9).

*5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and **be clothed with humility**: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

1 Peter 5:5-9

Peter also quotes Prov 3:34 when explaining the importance of being humble. But again, that does not mean to be a ‘walking matt’ to anyone. Being humble simply means we don’t let our pride control us. When you feel it swelling inside you, work hard to stop it and pray to God for help to handle the situation in a righteous manner. It is very difficult to make good decisions, and speak the right words when we are consumed with pride and/or anger - so we must learn to discipline ourselves to control these emotions and obey God’s Word. Again, praying to God for help at these times is paramount in learning how to do what’s right in troubling situations. Humbling ourselves to God means we humble our heart (our carnal mind- the part of us that wants to sin) to obey God’s Word despite how we ‘feel’ at the moment. Proverbs, yet again, gives us precious advice concerning this...

A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

Prov 29:11

A fool lashes out in anger when his (or her) pride is hurt but a wise man (or woman) refrains from responding in anger. It is hard to control our emotions at times but it's an essential part of serving Jesus Christ.

Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.
Prov 29:20

We should learn to listen before we speak and while we are listening, not only should we be thinking about what God's Word says to do in that situation, we should also be praying for help and guidance from the Holy Spirit. As James says...

*19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be **swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:**
20 For **the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.**
21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*
James 1:19-22

If we learn to actually listen to what people say (not what we *think* they are going to say) then we'll be much better at responding. Many times, people don't actually listen very well and thus, they *think* they know what a person said when they really don't – they missed what was said because... well because they weren't really listening! This causes much confusion and strife in the world so we must learn to listen and hear before we speak...

*19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.
20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.*
Prov 10:19-20

Overtalking a point doesn't get us anywhere and the more we talk (or listen to people talk) the more chance there is to sin. This shouldn't keep us from communicating with others; it just means we must do so with discipline, and discernment, from God's Word and Holy Spirit. For many people, talking is a form of entertainment. That's why they like to gossip so much! But, we should learn to use our mouth to serve our Heavenly Father and not for selfish gain or glory.

A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!
Prov 15:23

When we do learn to discipline ourselves to obey God's Word (and the Holy Spirit) then we can learn to use our mouth to serve God and glorify Him (Mth 5:16). This is what gives us the opportunities to plant seeds of truth and turn people's hearts and mind back to God, through Jesus Christ. Or, at the least, it will teach the gossipers to stop trying to gossip with you, which is a blessing in itself!

Psalm 12

4 Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?

Those who don't love and serve Jesus Christ think their lips belong to themselves so they can just say whatever they want to and no one can stop them. However, those who do serve Jesus Christ realize that, when Jesus Christ shed His precious blood for us, He redeemed us (bought us with His own blood) from sin. As Paul explained in Romans...

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

*4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father; even **so we also should walk in newness of life.***

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

*6 Knowing this, **that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.***

Rom 6:1-6

Therefore, we shouldn't serve sin (our carnal mind should not control us anymore) and sin is often done with our lips. So, indeed, even our own lips don't 'belong' to us anymore and we should not use them for our own selfishness. As Paul said of our physical body...

*1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

*2 And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Rom 12:1-3

While in the days before Jesus Christ died for our sins, people were required to give God blood sacrifices of animals, we are not supposed to do this anymore (Heb 10:10). Instead, we are to give Him spiritual sacrifices, such as **thanksgiving** (Ps 50:7-15, 107:11, 116:17, Jonah 2:9, Amos 4:5), **praise** (Ps 54:6, Ps 141:2, Jer 17:26, 33:1), **joy** (Ps 27:6) and **righteousness** (Deut 33:19, Ps 4:5, Heb 13:15). And that is truly what God has *always* wanted from His children (Mic 6:6-8). Paul also includes the actions of our flesh body, including our lips (words), as part of the spiritual sacrifices we are to give to God. So again, our lips don't belong to us. As Ps 119:108 asks of God: *Accept, I beseech thee, the **freewill offerings of my mouth**, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments.* And this is most apparent when Jesus told us...

16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

*19 But when they deliver you up, **take no thought how or what ye shall speak**: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.*

*20 For **it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.***

Matt 10:16-20

8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

9 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

10 And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.

11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:

*12 For **the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.***

Luke 12:8-12

Although Jesus was speaking to His disciples, these verses also very much apply to us living today. And the specific time He is referring to is when Satan is on earth, pretending to be the Savior of mankind. As we have learned in previous studies, Jesus (and God our Father) wants us to remain on earth during that time (He's not going to rapture us anywhere) specifically so we can testify to those who are worshipping the antichrist (as well as against the wicked) the Gospel of Jesus Christ (John 17:15). As Jesus said in Matt 24:14: *And this gospel of the kingdom **shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*** So, at that time especially, we are to make sure to give our lips to our Heavenly Father to speak through. In fact, He doesn't even want us to worry about what we'll say but continue to trust in Him that He'll give us the words to say. Now, this does not mean that all other times we can do what we want with our lips. No, we are still to allow Him to guide our words and He will teach us how to use our lips for good and not evil. An excellent example for us is when He chose Moses to go back to Egypt to lead Israel out of bondage. Moses, who had fled Egypt forty years earlier, was *very* reluctant to go back (to put it mildly). And so, he tried to use the excuse that he wasn't the man God could possibly want to do this job because he couldn't speak well. What did our Heavenly Father say to him?

10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

*11 And the LORD said unto him, **Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?***

*12 Now therefore **go**, and **I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.***
Ex 4:10-12

This promise to Moses also applies to us, when God chooses us to serve Him (when we become Christians). While we might not be called to be a preacher, teacher, pastor, priest, etc. we are still to share the Gospel in whatever way the Holy Spirit tells us to. And we shouldn't be afraid to, even if we are not good with words because: just as He promised Moses He could teach him what to say, so too will He do for us...

*Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God **which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.***
Isa 48:17

4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

5 The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.
Isa 50:4-5

As the Psalms also says: *What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose* (Ps 25:12). And we should also pray for this, as the Psalmist in Ps 141:3 does: *Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.* So, even before the time of the 'great tribulation' we should learn how to use our lips to glorify God, praise Him and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After all, if we are not able to let the Holy Spirit guide us in what, and how, we should speak *now*, how can we be ready for Him to use us when that time comes? As Jesus says in Luke 16:10: *He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

*13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but **which the Holy Ghost teacheth**; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

1 Cor 2:12-13

25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

*26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*
John 14:25-26

So, indeed, the Holy Spirit does teach us how to speak and use our tongue for the good and not for evil (as God's Word promises). And this is one of the character traits that firmly distinguishes those who are loyal to Jesus Christ from all others...

A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.
Prov 18:2

The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.
Prov 16:23

Therefore, we should remember to pray...

4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.
5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.
Ps 25:4-5

And let's not forget the advice of the Proverbs either...

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:
4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.
*5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.***
*6 **In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.***
7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.
Prov 3:3-7

So, let's remember to use our heart, our mind, our body and even our lips to serve our Heavenly Father, which is truly our 'reasonable service' we owe Him for shedding His precious blood, through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ - just to pay for *our* sins and free us from Satan's bondage of deception.

And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.
Ps 35:28

My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.
Ps 119:172

The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.
Prov 12:19

2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.
3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.
4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.
Prov 15:2-4

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

Prov 16:1

We'll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.