

Date: _____

Principles of Christian Growth

Section One: The Nature of Christian Growth – What is it?

Lesson Seven: Christian growth has a special focus on the tongue.

Bible Reading: James 3-4.

Good diagnostics are indispensable to successful medical care. If a doctor desires to help a patient become healthy, he must understand whether something is wrong, what that may be, and how best to treat this condition. Reading vital signs, like blood pressure, heart rate, and body temperature, is where this process begins. When it comes to the health of our Christian growth, a good place to read our vital signs is to begin with assessing how we use our tongue. Christian growth has a special focus on the tongue.

Discussion questions:

1. It is inarguable that an unbridled tongue has played a role in presidential politics of late. It seems that the more outlandish the statement, the more popular the candidate. James gives the Christian some reasons why the tongue must be bridled in James 3:1-12. List some of these reasons for bridling the tongue.
2. What lessons do the horse and bridle and the ship and rudder teach us about the positive use of our tongue? (James 3:3-4).
3. The wrong use of the tongue is associated with the wrong kind of wisdom (James 3:13-18). What is the difference between the right and wrong kind of wisdom?
4. James mentions a use of the tongue that is especially damaging to the work of God (4:11-12). What is that, and what are some common forms of this?