

Series: Choosing Integrity Week Six

_____ = adherence to moral and ethical principles;
soundness of moral character; honesty.

Proverbs 11:20 (NLT) ²⁰ The LORD detests people with crooked hearts, but he delights in those with integrity.

James 3:1-12 (NLT) ¹ Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.

“Judged more strictly” = higher level of _____ .

² Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

Perhaps one of the most damaging ways we can mess up is with the things we _____ or _____ .

³ We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. ⁴ And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. ⁵ In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.

Our tongue can be used for _____ but it can also be used in _____ ways.

⁶ And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. ⁷ People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. ¹⁰ And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! ¹¹ Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? ¹² Does a fig tree produce olives,

or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

Just because we sometimes have control of our tongue and sometimes we don't... that doesn't make it _____ !!

Gal 5:16-25 (NLT) ¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. ¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Having increasing control over our sin nature is more than just a hope born of _____, it is a hope born in _____ !!

While we are developing the habit of giving the Holy Spirit control of our _____, we're also learning to give Him control of our _____ !!

Being a _____ requires that I am a _____ first!

Homework: during the course of this week, take a daily inventory on how I used my _____ .