

# Upstream

**In life we face many issues and situations which can be difficult to navigate as well as endure. Each day we must get up out of bed and face the world. Sometimes it can feel as though we are doing the same things each and every day. The same job, the same coffee, the same car, the same house, the same...and life can become mundane.**

**We lose the feeling of excitement, blessings, gratitude and wonder that we should have to experience a new day.**

**We sometimes feel as though we are paddling upstream!  
Somedays we make headway, others we are washed downstream.**

**It seems that we face daily battles that can affect our walk. Folks that try to tear you down, people that seem to want to be a stumbling block to you. Prayers that perhaps have not been answered at this point, and even loved ones that seem to be critical, but we must have faith and rely on the power of the Lord.**

**Hebrews Chapter 11:**

**3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.**

**It is through this Faith that we are able to please God while also energizing our Christian Walk.**

**It is important as a Christian to not go by feelings! This can seem counterintuitive based on how some religions operate and we do not mean to belittle feelings or their place, however, if you as a Christian went solely by feelings then on Monday morning when you get out of bed, aching and dreading the day ahead, you might not feel God loves you.**

**Hebrews Chapter 11:**

**6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him**

**When you lose that promotion or are late to pick up the children and feel tired and rundown, envious or jealous about what someone else has, then those feelings might lead you to believe that God has forgotten you or is not in your corner working on your behalf. These things cannot be further from the Truth. The Truth of Gods word - the Bible is your source for all that is right and true. It is important to counteract your human feelings with the Truth of the Lord.**

**1 Corinthians Chapter 2:**

**5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**

**Reading the Bible is to reveal Gods promises in your life. These Promises supersede any of your feelings, or perceptions.**

**John Chapter 15:**

**7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

**The Bible tells us that great men and women of God that were able to do awesome things because of Faith. These promises are still enforce today.**

### **Hebrews Chapter 11:**

32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions

**While you are at work, your supervisor can make a derogatory statement or comment that can completely devastate your feelings. It can make you feel small, insufficient, inadequate, maybe even stupid.**

**What is worse is that your co workers can say things that can even make you feel worse.**

**This is because what these folks say to you may mean more than a disgruntled client or supervisor, why because in a lot of cases these are the folks that you spend more time with than your actual family.**

**It is likely they are a lot of your socialization. You see them daily. They know quite a few things about you by just being in close work proximity. Maybe they are just coworkers, or just friends at work or perhaps they are real friends. All of which can say things that affect how you feel at various levels.**

**Sometime words can be very devastating and sometimes folks have engineered what they say just to cause you or others pain. The Bible says that the tongue can be a very harmful tool that no man can completely tame.**

### **James Chapter 3:**

5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

**So the tongue, even though being very small can cause great trouble! It is likened unto a small fire that can roar out of control if not kept in check.**

### **James Chapter 3:**

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

**So from the reading, we see that tongue can defileth the whole body, it is a very good indicator of the intention and possibly the spirit of the person. Although we have all, said things that we wish we had not, things we wish we could take back that doesn't mean that our overall intention is to harm or damage folks but it could very well mean that we have strayed in our walk with God to a point that the Love of Jesus is not being manifested but perhaps our own human feelings. It is within our mission to control ourselves and our motivations should be pure driven.**

### **James Chapter 3:**

7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

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

**The Bible shows us how difficult it is to tame the tongue, to control ourselves, our thoughts and emotions. Yes it is difficult but we are called as the children of God, to stand out and be different. Our conversations should be Holy, with the intention to build up and not tear down. They should be laced with the positive and shun the negative.**

**We all know how hard this can be but perhaps this hints at the very nature of being a True Christian.**

**We are not to give back bad for good, but in all things to be found speaking in a manner that is more closely worthy of our Father.**

**James Chapter 3:**

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?

**This like most of the Truth of scripture can be tough to take, but it is the Truth.**

**That we should be consistent as Christians, even though the world lacks consistency.**

**Folks that try to damage you maybe feeling the ups and downs of a varying world, but as Believers we should stand firm and be unwavering. Our fountain should have consistent water!**

**James Chapter 3:**

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

**The words that proceed from us should be consistent with who we are as Christians.**

**It is this unwavering Love, un-moveable and firmness of belief, that draws folks to us in their time of trouble.**

**James Chapter 3:**

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.

**Let not the words of supervisors, this in authority positions, co workers, friends, or even loved ones, shake you. You are made in the image of the True Living God. His Love is sufficient and he loves you! His Blessing far outshine the dullness of the world and we should strive to be more like him.**

**In that strife we face, some folks are beset against us, but what they need in place of hate and sour words is the great love that God has set in you.**