

# Scott's Thoughts

September 3, 2023



*"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. 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!"* (James 3:4–5, ESV)

Each week I try to find a passage or two that speaks to me about where I am in my life. This week I am thinking about control. It seems to me that every time I think I have everything under control the good Lord reminds me that I am not the one in control. Things happen without warning, and I think I'll take a minute and get control of this before it gets out of hand. Then, no matter what solutions I find, they fall flat and make the situation worse. This week, the days seemed to have gone from one frustration to another. I have lost sleep trying to figure out how to approach these issues. So far, every answer I have come up with has failed. It seems the good Lord has decided I need a life lesson.

As I was thinking about what to write I thought of this word control and began to search the Bible for passages that deal with control. Most of them used the phrase self-control. But James, in chapter three, spends the whole chapter speaking about control of just one small part of our physical body - the tongue. As I read the chapter, I thought about my week and realized that I had been given many opportunities to bring my tongue under control.

While speaking on the phone with several different customer service representatives, I wanted to just scream. They have been trained to remain calm and give the same information over and over. Their information does not answer the question. They asked me to wait on hold while they "investigate what can be done about it." After being on hold for what seemed like hours but in fact was anywhere from five to ten minutes, they returned with the exact same non-answer they had given me before they put me on hold. It doesn't help if I call more than once because they destroy the request for information from the first call, treat this call as a new inquiry, and put it at the back of the line. How can a multi-billion-dollar company take my payment in five seconds but can't find out what they did with it in less than five to thirty days? My final response has been to put it on the shelf for a while and spend some time thinking about how I can grow from this experience. God already knows how the situation will work out. I just need to sit back calmly, express my concern to God and let Him guide me in the path and manner that He would have me to go. I haven't quit trying but I'm letting Him take care of it in His time, because control of all things is not within my grasp, but obedience to God is.

*"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."* (James 3:17–18, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining. —Scott