

James 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Does a fountain (pēgē, πηγή) send forth sweet and bitter water simultaneously? Nature teaches consistency; believers should likewise produce uniform speech flavored by grace.

Reformed spirituality looks to creation analogies to illustrate sanctification. A Spring's output reveals its source; tongues reveal hearts.

Historical Context

In arid lands, mixed-water springs were unusable. James's audience valued pure water sources. He uses everyday experience to expose the absurdity of mixed speech.",

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What influences are polluting the fountain of your heart?

2. How can you cultivate a consistently sweet stream of words?
3. Who experiences the refreshment of your speech?

Interlinear Text

μήτι	ἡ	πηγὴ	ἐκ	τῆς	αὐτῆς	ὁπῆς	βρύει	τὸ
Doth	G3588	a fountain	at	G3588	the same	place	send forth	G3588
G3385		G4077	G1537		G846	G3692	G1032	
γλυκὺ	καὶ	τὸ	πικρὸν					
sweet	water and	G3588	bitter					
G1099	G2532		G4089					

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