

THE BOOK OF JAMES

FATHWORKS



James 3:13-18

Both Sides of Wisdom

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:13-18, NIV

James continues his discussion of wisdom and how we apply it to our lives as Christians. James begins with a rhetorical question challenging to the reader to take a look inward and ask "Am I wise?" Wisdom goes beyond a simple understanding of what is right. While wisdom includes understanding, it goes beyond that. Wisdom, and thus a wise person, applies what they have learned. Yet, this wisdom is easily contrasted with the wisdom of the world. The world will encourage us to pursue selfish gain over and at the expense of others. The wisdom of Heaven, though, strives for a greater and deeper expression of a life changed and redeemed by an everlasting God.

What does James tell us is the criteria for whether a person is wise or not? What happens when a person is wise?

What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? How does this difference, and James' use of the word wisdom reinforce his point?

What are the qualities that James lists as wisdom that comes from the world?

What is the problem with selfish ambition and how does it run counter to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Wisdom of God?

How does the world display the selfish ambition and bitterness? Where have you see people boast in this type of wisdom?

What qualities make up the wisdom that comes from heaven? How did Jesus demonstrate this same wisdom to the world?

How is displaying the wisdom of the world redemptive in nature? What problems of the flesh is it seeking to cure? How do we obtain it?

Which of the qualities of "wisdom that comes from heaven" do you struggle with the most? Why is this a difficult quality for you to exhibit?

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Day One	James 3:13-18
Day Two	John 10
Day Three	Romans 10
Day Four	Psalms 10
Day Five	Exodus 10
Day Six	John 11
Day Seven	Romans 11

Prayer Requests