

## A Practical Study of JAMES: The Battle of Our Behavior

### SESSION #7: James 3:13-18

#### "Grow in Good Judgment"

Key Verse:

*3:17 But the wisdom which is from above is first pure, then peaceable, kind, obedient, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free from insincerity.*

Memory Verse: James 3:17

#### TEXT:

v. 13 Who is wise and learned among you? Let him show by his praiseworthy way of life his works with humility of wisdom.

v. 14 But if you are having bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, stop boasting and lying against the truth.

v. 15 This wisdom is not the wisdom coming down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

v. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there is disorder and every evil thing.

v. 17 But the wisdom which is from above is first pure, then peaceable, kind, obedient, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free from insincerity.

v. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is being sown in peace for those who are making peace.

### Introduction:

1. **TEST** — God is AT work to Make You More like Jesus.
2. **TEMPT** — Satan is AT work to get You OFF Track.
3. **WORD** — Daily Nourishment
4. **LOVE** — Fruit OF the Spirit. (A Love unconditional & impartial)
5. **FRUIT** — Faith will be revealed by Fruit.
6. **TONGUE** — Only the spirit OF God can control it.

In chapter 2 James dealt with the problem of **FAITH WITHOUT WORKS**.

Now in chapter 3 he is dealing with the problem of **WORDS WITHOUT WISDOM**.

The **LORD JESUS** is our great example when it comes to this matter of **SPEAKING WITH WISDOM**.

We read in:

**John 7:46**

The officers answered 'never a man spoke like this man.'

Chapter 3:1-12

Christian and **WORDS**.

Christian and **WISDOM**.

Chapter 3:13-18

James 1:19+20 "This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak & slow to anger, for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God."

James 1:5 "But if any of you lacks wisdom, Let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."



## THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Salutation. Thanksgiving. Exhortation to Unity.

PAUL, <sup>a</sup>called as an apostle of Jesus Christ <sup>1</sup>by <sup>b</sup>the will of God, and <sup>c</sup>Sosthenes our <sup>d</sup>brother,

2 to <sup>a</sup>the church of God which is at <sup>b</sup>Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, <sup>1</sup>saints <sup>c</sup>by calling, with all who in every place <sup>d</sup>call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their <sup>e</sup>Lord and ours:

3 <sup>a</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 <sup>a</sup>I thank <sup>1</sup>my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,

5 that in everything you were <sup>a</sup>enriched in Him, in all <sup>b</sup>speech and <sup>b</sup>all knowledge,

6 even as <sup>a</sup>the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed <sup>1</sup>in you,

7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, <sup>a</sup>awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

8 <sup>a</sup>who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in <sup>b</sup>the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 <sup>a</sup>God is faithful, through whom you were <sup>b</sup>called into <sup>c</sup>fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

10 Now <sup>a</sup>I exhort you, <sup>b</sup>brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all <sup>1</sup>agree, and there be no <sup>2</sup>divisions among you, but you be <sup>3</sup>made complete in <sup>d</sup>the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by <sup>a</sup>Chloe's <sup>b</sup>people, that there are quarrels among you.

12 Now I mean this, that <sup>a</sup>each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of <sup>b</sup>Apollos," and "I of <sup>c</sup>Cephas," and "I of Christ."

13 <sup>1</sup>Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you <sup>a</sup>baptized <sup>2</sup>in the name of Paul?

14 <sup>1</sup>I thank God that I <sup>a</sup>baptized none of you, except <sup>a</sup>Crispus and <sup>b</sup>Gaius,

15 that no man should say you were baptized <sup>1</sup>in my name.

16 Now I did baptize also the <sup>a</sup>household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

17 <sup>a</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, <sup>b</sup>not in <sup>1</sup>cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void.

18 For the word of the cross is to <sup>a</sup>those who <sup>1</sup>are perishing <sup>b</sup>foolishness, but to us who <sup>2</sup>are being saved it is <sup>c</sup>the power of God.

19 For it is written,  
"I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE,  
AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET  
ASIDE."

20 <sup>a</sup>Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of <sup>b</sup>this age? Has not God <sup>c</sup>made foolish the wisdom of <sup>d</sup>the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God <sup>a</sup>the world through its

1 <sup>1</sup>Lit., through  
<sup>a</sup>Rom. 1:1 <sup>b</sup>Rom. 15:32;  
2 Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1;  
2 Tim. 1:1; Rom. 1:10;  
2 Cor. 8:5 <sup>c</sup>Acts 18:17 <sup>d</sup>Acts 1:15  
2 <sup>1</sup>I.e., true believers; lit., holy ones  
<sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 10:32 <sup>b</sup>Acts 18:1  
<sup>c</sup>Rom. 1:7; 8:28 <sup>d</sup>Acts 7:59  
3 <sup>a</sup>Rom. 1:7  
4 <sup>1</sup>Some ancient mss. omit my  
<sup>a</sup>Rom. 1:8  
5 <sup>a</sup>2 Cor. 9:11 <sup>b</sup>2 Cor. 8:7; Rom. 15:14  
6 <sup>1</sup>Or, among  
<sup>a</sup>2 Tim. 1:8; 2 Thess. 1:10;  
1 Tim. 2:6; Rev. 1:2  
7 <sup>a</sup>Rom. 8:19, 23; Phil. 3:20; Luke 17:30; 2 Pet. 3:12  
8 <sup>a</sup>Phil. 1:6; Col. 2:7;  
1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23; Rom. 8:19 <sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:14;  
Phil. 1:6, 10; 2:16; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Thess. 2:2; Luke 17:24, 30  
9 <sup>a</sup>Deut. 7:9; Is. 49:7;  
1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:18;  
1 Thess. 5:24; 2 Thess. 3:3  
<sup>b</sup>Rom. 8:28 <sup>c</sup>1 John 1:3  
10 <sup>1</sup>Lit., speak the same thing <sup>2</sup>Lit., schisms <sup>3</sup>Or, united  
<sup>a</sup>Rom. 12:1 <sup>b</sup>Rom. 1:13  
<sup>c</sup>1 Cor. 11:18 <sup>d</sup>Rom. 12:16; Phil. 1:27  
11 <sup>a</sup>Rom. 16:10f.  
12 <sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 3:4; Matt. 23:8-10 <sup>b</sup>Acts 18:24; 1 Cor. 3:22  
<sup>c</sup>John 1:42; 1 Cor. 3:22; 9:5; 15:5  
13 <sup>1</sup>Or, Christ has been divided <sup>2</sup>Or, Christ is divided <sup>3</sup>Lit., into  
<sup>a</sup>Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38  
14 <sup>1</sup>Some ancient mss. read, I give thanks that  
Acts 18:8 <sup>b</sup>Rom. 16:23  
15 <sup>1</sup>Lit., into  
16 <sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 16:15 [17]  
17 <sup>1</sup>Lit., wisdom  
John 4:2; Acts 10:48 <sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 1:1, 4, 13; 2 Cor. 10:10; 11:6  
18 <sup>1</sup>Or, perish <sup>2</sup>Or, are raved  
<sup>a</sup>Cor. 2:15; 4:3; 2 Thess. 10; Acts 2:47 <sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 1:21, 3, 25; 2:14; 4:10 <sup>c</sup>1 Cor. 24; Rom. 1:16  
<sup>d</sup>Is. 29:14  
19 <sup>a</sup>Job 12:17; Is. 19:11f.; 1:18 marg. <sup>b</sup>Matt. 13:22; Cor. 2:6, 8; 3:18, 19 <sup>c</sup>Rom. 20ff. <sup>d</sup>1 Cor. 1:27f.; 6:2; 3:2; John 12:31; James 4:4  
1 <sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 1:27f.; 6:2; 11:32; hn 12:31; James 4:4

I Cor.  
1:20-ff.



## The Wisdom of God. Nothing But Christ.

wisdom did not *come to* know God, <sup>b</sup>God was well pleased through the <sup>c</sup>foolishness of the <sup>1</sup>message preached to <sup>d</sup>save those who believe.

22 For indeed <sup>a</sup>Jews ask for <sup>1</sup>signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;

23 but we preach <sup>1a</sup>Christ crucified, <sup>b</sup>to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles <sup>c</sup>foolishness,

24 but to those who are <sup>a</sup>the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ <sup>b</sup>the power of God and <sup>c</sup>the wisdom of God.

25 Because the <sup>a</sup>foolishness of God is wiser than men, and <sup>b</sup>the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For <sup>1</sup>consider your <sup>a</sup>call, brethren, that there were <sup>b</sup>not many wise according to <sup>2</sup>the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27 but <sup>a</sup>God has chosen the foolish things of <sup>b</sup>the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of <sup>b</sup>the world to shame the things which are strong,

28 and the base things of <sup>a</sup>the world and the despised, God has chosen, <sup>b</sup>the things that are not, that He might <sup>c</sup>nullify the things that are,

29 that <sup>a</sup>no <sup>1</sup>man should boast before God.

30 But <sup>1</sup>by His doing you are in <sup>a</sup>Christ Jesus, who became to us <sup>b</sup>wisdom from God, <sup>2</sup>and <sup>c</sup>righteousness and <sup>d</sup>sanctification, and <sup>e</sup>redemption,

31 that, just as it is written, "<sup>a</sup>LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

## CHAPTER 2

AND when I came to you, brethren, I <sup>a</sup>did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you <sup>b</sup>the <sup>1</sup>testimony of God.

2 For I determined to know nothing among you except <sup>a</sup>Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

3 And I <sup>a</sup>was with you in <sup>b</sup>weakness and in <sup>c</sup>fear and in much trembling.

4 And my <sup>1</sup>message and my preaching were <sup>a</sup>not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of <sup>b</sup>the Spirit and of power,

5 that your faith should not <sup>1</sup>rest on the wisdom of men, but on <sup>a</sup>the power of God.

6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are <sup>a</sup>mature; a wisdom, however, not of <sup>b</sup>this age, nor of the rulers of <sup>b</sup>this age, who are <sup>c</sup>passing away;

7 but we speak God's wisdom in a <sup>a</sup>mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God <sup>b</sup>predestined before the <sup>c</sup>ages to our glory;

8 the wisdom <sup>a</sup>which none of the rulers of <sup>b</sup>this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified <sup>c</sup>the Lord of glory;

9 but just as it is written,

"<sup>a</sup>THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD,

AND <sup>a</sup>WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

## 1 Corinthians 1, 2

21 <sup>1</sup>Lit., *preaching*  
<sup>b</sup>Gal. 1:15; Col. 1:19; Luke 12:32 <sup>c</sup>1 Cor. 1:18, 23, 25; 2:14; 4:10 <sup>d</sup>1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 2:10; 3:15; 4:18; Heb. 7:25; James 5:20; Rom. 11:14

22 <sup>1</sup>Or, *attesting miracles*  
<sup>a</sup>Matt. 12:38

23 <sup>1</sup>I.e., *Messiah*  
<sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 2:2; Gal. 3:1; 5:11  
<sup>b</sup>Luke 2:34; 1 Pet. 2:8 <sup>c</sup>1 Cor. 1:18, 21, 25; 2:14; 4:10

24 <sup>a</sup>Rom. 8:28 <sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 1:16 <sup>c</sup>Luke 11:49; 1 Cor. 1:30

25 <sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 1:18, 21, 23; 2:14; 1 Cor. 4:10 <sup>b</sup>2 Cor. 13:4

26 <sup>1</sup>Lit., *see* <sup>2</sup>Or, *human standards*  
<sup>a</sup>Rom. 11:29 <sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 2:8; 1:20; Matt. 11:25

27 <sup>a</sup>James 2:5 <sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 1:20

28 <sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 1:20 <sup>b</sup>Rom. 4:17  
<sup>c</sup>1 Cor. 2:6; Job 34:19; 2 Thess. 2:8; Heb. 2:14

29 <sup>1</sup>Lit., *flesh*  
<sup>a</sup>Eph. 2:9

30 <sup>1</sup>Lit., *of Him* <sup>2</sup>Or, *both*  
<sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 4:15; Rom. 8:1  
<sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 1:24 <sup>c</sup>2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9; Jer. 23:5f.; 33:16  
<sup>d</sup>1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; 1 Thess. 5:23 <sup>e</sup>Eph. 1:7, 14; Col. 1:4; Rom. 5:24

31 <sup>a</sup>Jer. 9:23f.; 2 Cor. 10:17

1 <sup>1</sup>Some ancient mss. read, *mystery*  
<sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 2:4, 13; 1:17 <sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 2:7

2 <sup>a</sup>Gal. 6:14; 1 Cor. 1:23

3 <sup>a</sup>Acts 18:1, 6, 12 <sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 4:10; 2 Cor. 11:30; 12:5, 9f.; 13:9 <sup>c</sup>Is. 19:16; Eph. 6:5; 2 Cor. 7:15

4 <sup>1</sup>Lit., *word*  
<sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 2:1, 13; 1:17 <sup>b</sup>Rom. 15:19; 1 Cor. 4:20

5 <sup>1</sup>Lit., *be*  
<sup>a</sup>2 Cor. 4:7; 6:7; 2 Cor. 12:9

6 <sup>a</sup>Eph. 4:13; Phil. 3:15  
*marg.*; Heb. 5:14; 6:1 <sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 1:20; Matt. 13:22 <sup>c</sup>1 Cor. 1:28

7 <sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 2:1; Rom. 11:25; 16:25f. <sup>b</sup>Rom. 8:29f. <sup>c</sup>Heb. 1:2; 11:3

8 <sup>a</sup>1 Cor. 2:6; 1:26 <sup>b</sup>1 Cor. 1:20; Matt. 13:22 <sup>c</sup>Acts 7:2; James 2:1

9 <sup>a</sup>Is. 64:4; 65:17



v. 13 Who is wise and learned among you? Let him show by his praiseworthy way of life his works with humility of wisdom.

In chapter 2:18 James says:

a man will say you are having faith and I am having works. Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works.

Now James, in chapter 3, says:

"WHO IS WISE AND LEARNED AMONG YOU? LET HIM SHOW BY HIS PRAISEWORTHY WAY OF LIFE HIS WORKS WITH HUMILITY OF WISDOM."

*You have got to be Humble & Teachable to receive wisdom.*

James still has in mind here the **TEACHER**.

*Proverbs 8:34: "Blessed*

*is the one who listens to me, watching at my door day by day, waiting at the posts of my doorway."*

*Dr. Johnstone says: 8:35 "For the one who finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord."*

If we get up and teach with wisdom and technical knowledge and have not good works we are boasting and lying against the truth.

### LIFE OVER LIP

Graduate = Long on **KNOWLEDGE**, Short on **WISDOM**

Wisdom from **MATURITY** and **EXPERIENCE**.

*A Gift From the Lord As You Seek Him.*

*Proverbs 4:11: "I will guide you in the way of wisdom and I will lead you in upright paths."*

James is not interested in a bunch of empty words but he wants a life which manifests good judgment to back up that which is being said. A person characterized by:

DOING THE RIGHT THING,

AT THE RIGHT TIME,

IN THE RIGHT WAY.

*The Bottom Line is doing God's Thing !!*

This having been said, James will now turn to contrasting the **TWO TYPES OF WISDOM** for us in verses 14-17.

James sounds a great deal like the apostle Paul here.

2137

GALATIANS

as an opportunity to indulge your flesh,<sup>1</sup> but through love serve one another.<sup>2</sup> 5:14 For the whole law can be summed up in a single commandment,<sup>3</sup> namely, "You must love your neighbor as yourself."<sup>4</sup> 5:15 However, if you continually bite and devour one another,<sup>5</sup> beware that you are not consumed<sup>6</sup> by one another. 5:16 But I say, live<sup>7</sup> by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.<sup>8</sup> 5:17 For the flesh has desires that are opposed to the Spirit, and the Spirit has desires<sup>9</sup> that are opposed to the flesh, for these are in opposition to<sup>10</sup> each other, so that you cannot do what you want. 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 5:19 Now the works of the flesh<sup>11</sup> are obvious:<sup>12</sup> sexual immorality, impurity, depravity, 5:20 idolatry, sorcery,<sup>13</sup> hostilities,<sup>14</sup> strife,<sup>15</sup> jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish rivalries, dissensions,<sup>16</sup> factions, 5:21 envying,<sup>17</sup> murder,<sup>18</sup> drunkenness, carousing,<sup>19</sup> and similar things. I am warning you, as I had warned you before: Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God!

5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit<sup>20</sup> is love,<sup>21</sup> joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithful-

ness,<sup>22</sup> 5:23 gentleness, and<sup>23</sup> self-control. Against such things there is no law. 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ<sup>24</sup> have crucified the flesh<sup>25</sup> with its passions<sup>26</sup> and desires. 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with<sup>27</sup> the Spirit. 5:26 Let us not become conceited,<sup>28</sup> provoking<sup>29</sup> one another, being jealous<sup>30</sup> of one another.

*Support One Another*

6:1 Brothers and sisters,<sup>31</sup> if a person<sup>32</sup> is discovered in some sin,<sup>33</sup> you who are spiritual<sup>34</sup> restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness.<sup>35</sup> Pay close attention<sup>36</sup> to yourselves, so that you are not tempted too. 6:2 Carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 6:3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 6:4 Let each one examine<sup>37</sup> his own work. Then he can take pride<sup>38</sup> in himself and not compare himself with<sup>39</sup> someone else. 6:5 For each one will carry<sup>40</sup> his own load.



v. 14 But if you are having bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, stop boasting and lying against the truth.

What James is saying here is that if you are wise and learned, then show it by your:

### PRAISEWORTHY LIFE.

Your works with humility of wisdom, but if these other things are true that we see in verse 14, don't be phony about it by boasting and lying against the truth.

If you are a TEACHER:

1. BOASTING and
2. LYING.

"STOP" - They Are doing it. Present Tense.

One thing that James can't stand is a person who knows what to do and doesn't do it, or a person who says one thing and does something completely different.

There are TWO THINGS that James mentions here as possibilities to be in our hearts:

1. "BITTER JEALOUSY" and
2. "SELFISH AMBITION."

1. Jealous over someone else's success.
2. Selfish ambition.

Threatened

#1 - Center of Attention

Servant's heart – ~~Dick Hillis 3rd Ad. Level!!!~~

J – Jesus  
O – others  
Y – You.

“BITTER”

Frustrations and Failures

Trials and Traumas

We have “JEALOUSY” – seeming success of others who never have these struggles we have or at least they never talk about it.

“BITTER” over past treatment.

“JEALOUSY” about present success.

We want to look first at “BITTER JEALOUSY.”

#1

It is “BITTER” in that it regards its opponents as enemies to be annihilated rather than friends to be persuaded.

It is “JEALOUS” in the same sense that it wants victory for its opinions far rather than to have truth prevail.

The SECOND WORD is “SELFISH AMBITION IN [OUR] HEART.”

#2

1. POWER,
2. PRESTIGE, and
3. PERSONAL PRIORITIES.

James and John – one on right – one on left

wanted The Key Seats in The Kingdom!



Barclay says:

It is in the end more eager to display itself than to display the truth. And it is interested more in the victory of its own opinions than in the victory of the truth.

Johnson points out of this verse:

A person should refrain from teaching if he is not willing to live the truth he is teaching because otherwise he is lying against what he teaches.

EZRA 7:10

v. 15 This wisdom is not the wisdom coming down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

"Bitter jealousy" and "selfish ambition."

James identifies this "WISDOM." It is a:

"WISDOM [THAT] IS NOT . . . COMING DOWN FROM ABOVE" from the Father of Light, but is "DEMONIC" in its origin.

Grow in God

Judgment

Pardue

There are THREE THINGS that James says about this "WISDOM" that is from BELOW:

1. WORLD SYSTEM—"EARTHLY." It is in the earth or a product of the world.

*Rules God out of the Equation*

Humanism

Evolution

1 Corinthians 1:20-21

So what about these wise men, these scholars, these brilliant debators of this world's great affairs. God has made them all look foolish and shown their wisdom to be useless nonsense for God, in His wisdom, saw to it that the world would never find God through human brilliance. Then he stepped in and saved all those who believed his message which the world calls foolish and silly.



### 1 Corinthians 3:19

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.

As it says in the book of Job:

~~God uses man's own brilliance to trap him.~~

~~He stumbles over his own wisdom and falls.~~

### 2. OLD NATURE—"UNSPIRITUAL."

### 1 Corinthians 2:14

But the man who isn't a Christian can't understand and can't accept these thoughts from God which the Holy Spirit teaches us. They sound foolish to him because only those who have the Holy Spirit within them can understand what the Holy Spirit means. Others just can't take it in.

### Jude 19

They stir up arguments, they love the evil things of the world. They do not have the Holy Spirit living in them. The wisdom of this world cannot be spiritual because the spirit is not the author of their wisdom. This wisdom is the product of the natural man apart from the spirit of God. It may sound intellectual, but it is still a product of man.

### 3. DEVIL—"DEMONIC."

James, in our study of FAITH and WORKS, pointed out in chapter two that the DEVILS BELIEVE.

Now in chapter three, in talking on "WISDOM," we find that THEY HAVE WISDOM TOO.

This wisdom is seen in:

Genesis 3:4-5

And the serpent said unto the woman You shall not surely die for God doeth know that in the day ye eat thereof then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as God knowing good and evil.

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

So James describes this "WISDOM" from below. It is:

1. "EARTHLY,"
2. "UNSPIRITUAL," and
3. "DEMONIC."

It is the product of the:

1. WORLD,
2. FLESH, and the
3. DEVIL.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding . . .

"I did it my way . . ."

Jacob

Prodigal



Isaiah 55:8-11

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

is  
My way ~~is~~ not the best way!

" " " " " Right "  
" " " " " God's "

v. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there is disorder and every evil thing.

Here James is giving the REASON for his statement in verse 14. "If you are having bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, stop boasting and lying against the truth":

✱ "FOR WHERE JEALOUSY AND SELFISH AMBITION ARE, THERE IS DISORDER AND EVERY EVIL THING."

So many churches.

Division

Disorder

Evil Practices

1 Corinthians 14:33

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace as in all churches of the saints.

Paul commands these Corinthian Christians in:

1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

He not only says that there is "DISORDER" but there is also "EVERY EVIL THING."



When you've got "JEALOUSY AND SELFISH AMBITION," accompanying these two will be:

PRIDE,

CRITICISM,

LYING,

ANGER,

MALICE,

DISCOURAGEMENT, and

BITTERNESS.

All of these things characterize this "WISDOM" which is from below.

v. 17 But the wisdom which is from above is first pure, then peaceable, kind, obedient, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free from insincerity.

### Below

Test—God Sure doesn't like You!

Tempt—God made me this way!

Word— who needs it!

Love— ONLY Those who love me!

Works— I'll Take my chances!

Tongue— Free Speech!

### Above

This is the KEY VERSE in our study "GROW IN GOOD JUDGMENT."

Now James outlines the "WISDOM WHICH IS FROM ABOVE" and gives us several characteristics of this "WISDOM".

This is what God gives when You Ask!

What a CONTRAST this "WISDOM" is from that which is SATANIC.

The picture herein described is a picture of JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF.

### Job 28:28

And unto man he said behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding.

The "WISDOM" herein described is not something we can acquire on the human plane but MUST COME FROM GOD.

Produced by the Spirit in the hearts of the humble, who recognize they need it!



James makes mention of the fact that "WISDOM" is available in:

James 1:5

If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him keep on asking from God whose giving to all generously without reserve and who does not reproach and it shall be given him.

In this verse "WISDOM WHICH IS FROM ABOVE" is characterized in EIGHT DIFFERENT WAYS. It is:

1. "PURE."

The Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount says in:

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

It is "PURE" in the sense that it has NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES. So cleansed of self, it is pure enough to see God. The true "WISDOM" is able to bear the scrutiny of God.

Acts 24:16

In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.

This is in direct CONTRAST to the "bitter jealousy" and "selfish ambition" which characterizes the "WISDOM" from below.

2.

"PEACEABLE."

Romans 8:6

For the mind of the flesh is death but the mind of the spirit is life and peace.

UPWARD,

INWARD, and

OUTWARD.

VERTICAL and

HORIZONTAL.

ISA. 26:3

Phil. 4:6,7



Proverbs 3:17

Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace.

Right relationships between man and man and between man and God.

TRUE "WISDOM" brings men:

CLOSER TOGETHER and

CLOSER TO GOD.

FALSE "WISDOM":

DRIVES PEOPLE APART and

PRODUCES STRIFE.

Isaiah 32:17

And the work of righteousness shall be peace and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are those who are making peace . . .

3.

"KIND."

A person who is "KIND" has a sweet reasonableness about him. He tempers mercy with justice. He is a man who knows how to forgive when he has a perfect right to condemn. It is the ability to extend to others the kindly consideration we want for ourselves, implying one who does not stand on his rights but gives way to the wishes of others.

Character of LOVE.

1 Corinthians 13

4 "Love is Patient, love is kind..."

Fruit of the Spirit.

Gal. 5:22: "But the Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, patience, Kindness..."

4.

"OBEDIENCE."

obedient

William Law said there are "Rules for Life" and the first one is:

To fix it deep in my mind that I have but one business upon my hands, to seek for eternal happiness by doing the will of God.

SUBMISSIVE TO AUTHORITY.

OBEDIENCE is better than SACRIFICE.

Barclay says of this word "TRUE WISDOM" it is:

Not rigid and austere and beyond all appeal. It is willing to listen, willing to be persuaded, skilled in knowing when to wisely yield.

5.

"FULL OF MERCY."

What a CONTRAST this is to the UNCONTROLLED TONGUE in verse 8.

The tongue no one in the human race is able to tame—A restless evil, full of death-bringing poison.



Matthew 5:7

Happy are the kind and merciful for they shall be shown mercy.

**DEEDS OF MERCY**

James 2:13 "For judgment is merciless  
for the one who has shown no mercy. But mercy  
**TRIUMPH** in: triumphs over judgment"

Judges 2:13

~~because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.~~

Lord, help me live from day to day  
In such a self-forgetful way,  
That even when I kneel to pray  
My prayer shall be for others.  
Help me in all the work I do  
To ever be sincere and true,  
And know that all I'd do for You  
Must needs be done for others.  
And when my work on earth is done  
And my work in heaven is begun,  
May I forget the crown I've won  
While thinking still of others.  
Others, Lord, yes, others,  
Let this my motto be,  
Help me to live for others,  
That I may live like Thee.

(Taken from Chapter 42 of Dr. Jack Hyle's book, *Blue Denim and Lace*)

6. "FULL OF GOOD FRUITS."

We get the **FRUITAGE OF THE SPIRIT** in:

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Jacobsen points out:

If you are wise, according to God's standard, you will <sup>Show</sup> it by a holy and meek life. The wisdom which is from above seeks purity in Himself and peace with others.

7. "IMPARTIAL."

James has had some things to say about the matter of **SHOWING PARTIALITY**.

The word has the idea of being **UNDIVIDED** or **SINGLE-MINDED**, making no distinctions.

It is a person who has **FIXED PRINCIPLES** or a man of **FIRM CONVICTION**.

He is the **OPPOSITE OF THE DOUBLE-MINDED MAN** who is unstable in all his ways or the person showing partiality, who is divided in his mind.



8.

"FREE FROM INSINCERITY"—without HYPOCRISY.

The "WISDOM WHICH IS FROM ABOVE" is not phony. It does not deal in deception or deceit for its own ends. It is not a wisdom clever at putting on disguises and concealing its real aims and motives.

<sup>9el</sup>  
NATHANIAL

John 1:47: "Look, a True Israelite in whom  
There is NO Deceit!"

This is just the OPPOSITE of what we have seen in verse 14:

But if you are having bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, stop boasting and lying against the truth.

REAL

GENUINE

TRANSPARENT

Right judgment in all things . . .

If we are going to follow JAMES' POINTERS FOR PROGRESS—especially number 7 "GROW IN GOOD JUDGMENT"—it will be necessary for us to seek the Lord for this "WISDOM" in verse 17 so that our lives will be characterized by these things which have been stated here in this verse.

Once again we can see that this is not something which we can produce in ourselves, but it is produced by the Spirit of God and is given as a gift to those who are humble enough to receive it and recognize they have a need.

v. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is being sown in peace for those who are making peace.

Robertson points out:

This verse is a summary of all that he has had to say thus far. They who make peace show a likeness to God, the great Maker of peace.

Psalm 1:3

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth its fruit in its season. Its leaves also shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he that winneth souls is wise.

Paul says in:

Philippians 1:11

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

Hebrews 12:11

Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous but grievous. Nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them who are exercised by it.



Where there is bitterness and strife, there is a barren and sterile soul in which the seeds of righteousness can never grow and out of which no reward can ever come. The person responsible for the strife and bitterness and disturbing personal relationships has cut himself off from the reward which God gives to those who live His life. Without right relationships between man and man and man and God, there can no righteousness exist.

John 15

Fruit

More Fruit

Much Fruit

## CONCLUSION:

If our lives to this point have been governed by the wisdom which is from below, it would be well for us to pause and confess this to the Lord and deal with our phoneyess and tell Him that we long to have that wisdom described in verse 17 which is from above in our lives.

It is only when we get to the end of every attempt to do anything without Jesus Christ, when we lay aside our ambition, crucify our prejudices, die to our so-called intellectual approach and humble our pride that we can look up into His lovely face and say:

"Lord Jesus, I live, yet not I."

George Kemble

Test

Tempt

Word

Love

Fruit

Tongue

Wisdom



## CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Wisdom reflects your level of maturity.

LESSON #2: There are two kinds of wisdom: 1) "from above" and 2) "earthly, unspiritual, demonic."

LESSON #3: Is the wisdom from above characterizing your life.

LESSON #4: Of the eight characteristics of the wisdom from above, how many are now present in your life?

LESSON #5: Wisdom comes from maturity and experiences.

## SOLOMON PRAYED FOR WISDOM.

*Lord Gives Solomon Wisdom*

1 Solomon made an alliance by marriage with Pharaoh, king of Egypt; he married Pharaoh's daughter. He brought her to the City of David<sup>1</sup> until he could finish building his residence and the temple of the LORD and the wall around Jerusalem.<sup>2</sup> 3:2 Now the people were offering sacrifices at the high places,<sup>3</sup> because in those days a temple had not yet been built to honor the LORD.<sup>4</sup> 3:3 Solomon demonstrated his loyalty to the LORD by following<sup>5</sup> the practices<sup>6</sup> of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

3:4 The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for it had the most prominent of the high places.<sup>7</sup> Solomon would offer up<sup>8</sup> a thousand burnt sacrifices on the altar there. 3:5 One night in Gibeon the LORD appeared<sup>9</sup> to Solomon in a dream. God said, "Tell<sup>10</sup> me what I should give you." 3:6 Solomon replied, "You demonstrated<sup>11</sup> great loyalty to your servant, my father David, as he served<sup>12</sup> you faithfully, properly, and sincerely.<sup>13</sup> You have maintained this great loyalty to this day by allowing his son to sit on his throne.<sup>14</sup> 3:7 Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in my father David's place, even though I am only a young man and am inexperienced.<sup>15</sup> 3:8 Your servant stands<sup>16</sup> among your chosen people;<sup>17</sup> they are a great nation that is too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning mind<sup>18</sup> so I can make judicial decisions for<sup>19</sup> your people and distinguish right from wrong.<sup>20</sup> Otherwise<sup>21</sup>

no one is able<sup>22</sup> to make judicial decisions for<sup>23</sup> this great nation of yours."<sup>24</sup> 3:10 The Lord<sup>25</sup> was pleased that Solomon made this request.<sup>26</sup> 3:11 God said to him, "Because you asked for the ability to make wise judicial decisions, and not for long life, or riches, or vengeance on your enemies,<sup>27</sup> 3:12 I<sup>28</sup> grant your request,<sup>29</sup> and give<sup>30</sup> you a wise and discerning mind<sup>31</sup> superior to that of anyone who has preceded or will succeed you.<sup>32</sup> 3:13 Furthermore, I am giving<sup>33</sup> you what you did not request—riches and honor so that you will be the greatest king of your generation.<sup>34</sup> 3:14 If you follow my instructions<sup>35</sup> by obeying<sup>36</sup> my rules and regulations, just as your father David did,<sup>37</sup> then I will grant you long life."<sup>38</sup> 3:15 Solomon then woke up and realized it was a dream.<sup>39</sup>

3:5 Trust<sup>16</sup> in the LORD with all your heart,<sup>17</sup> and do not rely<sup>18</sup> on your own understanding.<sup>19</sup> 3:6 Acknowledge<sup>20</sup> him in all your ways,<sup>21</sup> and he will make your paths straight.<sup>22</sup>

I Gave You My Tongue  
" " Now " MIND!  
" You " "

February 27  
Monday

## EVERLASTING ARMS

READ:

Deuteronomy 33:26-29

The eternal God  
is your refuge, and  
underneath are the  
everlasting arms.

—Deuteronomy 33:27

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:

■ Numbers 17-19

■ Mark 6:30-56

Those words echo the truth in the final blessing of Moses: "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides the heavens to help you, and in His excellency on the clouds. The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deuteronomy 33:26-27).

What a gift we have in our own arms and hands—they can swing a hammer, hold a child, or help a friend. But while our strength is limited, God's boundless power on our behalf is expressed in might and gentle care. "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save" (Isaiah 59:1). "He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom" (Isaiah 40:11).

Whatever challenge or opportunity we face, there is security and peace in His everlasting arms. —David McCasland

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**The heavenly Father's arms never tire  
of holding His children.**

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After a pre-concert rehearsal in New York City's Carnegie Hall, Randall Atcheson sat on stage alone. He had successfully navigated the intricate piano compositions of Beethoven, Chopin, and Liszt for the evening program, and with only minutes remaining before the doors opened, he wanted to play one more piece for himself. What came from his heart and his hands was an old hymn by Elisha Hoffman:

*What have I to dread,  
what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace  
with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*



# STUDY # SEVEN

## GROW IN GOOD JUDGMENT 3:13-18

### KEY VERSE 3:17

But the wisdom which is from above is first pure, then peaceable, kind, obedient, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free from insincerity.

### MEMORY VERSE:

3:17

### TEXT:

3:13-18

Who is wise and learned among you? Let him show by his praiseworthy way of life his works with humility of wisdom. But if you are having bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, stop boasting and lying against the truth. This wisdom is not the wisdom coming down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic for where jealousy and selfish ambition are there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom which is from above is first pure, then peaceable, kind, obedient, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free from insincerity and the fruit of righteousness is being shown in peace for those who are making peace.

EXPOSITION: In Chapter 2 James dealt with the problem of faith without works and now in Chapter 3 he is dealing with the problem of words without wisdom.

1. The Lord Jesus is our great example when it comes to this matter of speaking with wisdom. John 7:46 says: "The officers answered 'never a man spoke like this man'."

Verse Thirteen: Who is wise and learned among you? Let him show by his praiseworthy way of life his works with humility of wisdom.

1. In Chapter 2:18 James says that "a man will say you are having faith and I am having works. Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works." Now James in Chapter 3 says: "Who is wise and learned among you? Let him show by his praiseworthy way of life his works with humility of wisdom."

2. James still has in mind here the teacher for as Dr. Johnstone says: "If we get up and teach with wisdom and technical knowledge and have not good works we are boasting and lying against the truth."

3. James is not interested in a bunch of empty words but he wants a life which manifests good judgment to back up that which is being said. A person characterized by doing the right thing at the right time in the right way.

4. This having been said, James will now turn to contrasting the two types of wisdom for us in Verses 14 through 17. James sounds a great deal like the apostle Paul here.

Verse Fourteen: But, if you are having bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, stop boasting and lying against the truth.

1. What James is saying here is that if you are wise and learned, then show it by your praiseworthy life. Your works with humility of wisdom, but if these other things are true that we see in Verse 14, don't be phony about it by boasting and lying against the truth.

2. One thing that James can't stand is a person who knows what to do and doesn't do it, or a person who says one thing and does something completely different.

3. There are two things that James mentions here as possibilities to be in our hearts,

① first of all "bitter jealousy" and secondly, "selfish ambition."

① Jealous over Someone else's Success. - Threatened.

② Selfish Ambition.

- #1 ; center of Attention

Servant's heart - Dick Hillis 3rd. Ad. level !!

- ① Test
- ② Tempt
- ③ Word
- ④ Love
- ⑤ Fruit
- ⑥ Tongue

Xian + words  
" " wisdom

Life over  
hip

Graduate = \*  
Long on Knowledge  
Short on wisdom !!

Wisdom From  
Maturity + Experience

If you  
are a Teacher  
① Boasting  
② Lying



Bitter - Frustrations & failures  
 Jealousy - Seeming Success of others who never have these struggles we have or At least they Never 72  
 Talk About it !!

"bitter" over past Treat.  
 "Jealousy" Present Success.

4. We want to look first at bitter jealousy. It is "bitter" in that it regards its opponents as enemies to be annihilated rather than friends to be persuaded. It is "jealous" in the sense that it wants victory for its opinions far rather than to have truth prevail.
5. The second word is "selfish ambition" in your heart. → ① Power ③ Personal Priorities
6. Barclay says: "It is in the end more eager to display itself than to display the truth. And it is interested more in the victory of its own opinions than in the victory of the truth." ② Prestige James & John: one only
7. Johnson points out of this verse: "A person should refrain from teaching if he is not willing to live the truth he is teaching because otherwise he is lying against what he teaches." \* \*

Verse Fifteen: This wisdom is not the wisdom coming down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

1. James identifies this wisdom. It is a wisdom that is not coming down from above, from the Father of Light, but is demonic in its origin.
2. There are three things that James says about this wisdom that is from below. First of all, it is "earthly." It is in the earth or a product of the world.
3. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:20-21: "So what about these wise men, these scholars, these brilliant debaters of this world's great affairs. God has made them all look foolish and shown their wisdom to be useless nonsense for God, in His wisdom, saw to it that the world would never find God through human brilliance. Then he stepped in and saved all those who believed his message which the world calls foolish and silly."
4. 1 Corinthians 3:19 "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God." As it says in the Book of Job, "God uses man's own brilliance to trap him." He stumbles over his own wisdom and falls.
5. The second characteristic of this wisdom from below is that it is "unspiritual."
6. 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the man who isn't a Christian can't understand and can't accept these thoughts from God which the Holy Spirit teaches us. They sound foolish to him because only those who have the Holy Spirit within them can understand what the Holy Spirit means. Others just can't take it in."
7. Jude 19 "They stir up arguments, they love the evil things of the world. They do not have the Holy Spirit living in them. The wisdom of this world cannot be spiritual because the spirit is not the author of their wisdom. This wisdom is the product of the natural man apart from the spirit of God. It may sound intellectual, but it is still a product of man."
8. The third thing we see about this wisdom is that it is demonic. James in our study of Faith and Works pointed out in Chapter Two that the devils believe and now in Chapter Three in talking on wisdom we find that they have wisdom too.
9. This wisdom is seen in Genesis 3: 4-5 "And the serpent said unto the woman You shall not surely die for God doeth know that in the day ye eat thereof then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as God knowing good and evil." Rom 5:12
10. So James describes this wisdom from below. It is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. It is a product of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Bitter Jeal.  
 Selfish Amb.  
 Grow in Good Judgment  
 Pardue  
 ① World System  
 Humanism  
 Evolution

② Old Nature

③ Devil

Proverbs 3:5 + 6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart

And lean not unto your own understanding...

ISA. 55: 8-11

"I did it My way... Jacob; Prodigal  
 My way is not the best way if



Verse Sixteen: For where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there is disorder and every evil thing.

1. Here James is giving the reason for his statement in Verse 14: "If you are having bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart stop boasting and lying against the truth for where jealousy and selfish ambition are there is disorder and every evil thing."
- \* 2. 1 Corinthians 14:33: "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace as in all churches of the saints."
3. 1 Corinthians 14:40: Paul commands these Corinthian Christians "Let all things be done decently and in order." He not only says that there is disorder but there is also every evil thing.
4. When you've got jealousy and selfish ambition, accompanying these two will be pride, criticism, lying, anger, malice, discouragement and bitterness. All of these things characterize this wisdom which is from below.

Verse Seventeen: But the wisdom <sup>that</sup> is from above is first pure, then peaceable, kind, obedient, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, free from insincerity.

1. This is the key verse in our study Grow in Good Judgment. <sup>from</sup> Hugh James outlines the wisdom which is from above and gives us several characteristics of this wisdom.
2. What a contrast this wisdom is from that which is satanic. The picture herein described is a picture of Jesus Christ Himself.
3. Job 28:28 "And unto man he said behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding."
4. The wisdom herein described is not something we can acquire on the human plane but must come from God.
5. James makes mention of the fact that wisdom is available in Chapter 1:5 "If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him keep on asking from God whose giving to all generously without reserve and who does not reproach and it shall be given him."
6. In this verse wisdom from above is characterized in 8 different ways. First of all, it is "pure." Matthew 5:8 The Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount says "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." It is pure in the sense that it has no ulterior motives. So cleansed of self, it is pure enough to see God. The true wisdom is able to bear the scrutiny of God.
7. This is in direct contrast to the bitter jealousy and selfish ambition which characterizes the wisdom from below.
8. The second word James uses is the word "peaceable." Romans 8:6 says "For the mind of the flesh is death but the mind of the spirit is life and peace." Proverbs 3:17 "Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace." Right relationships between man and man and between man and God. True wisdom brings men closer together and closer to God. False wisdom drives people apart and produces strife.
9. Isaiah 32:17 "And the work of righteousness shall be peace and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever."

Mat 5:9 Blessed Are those who are making peace. . .

So Many Churches . . . \*

Division  
Disorder  
Evil Practices.

Below  
Test  
Tempt  
word  
Love  
works  
Tongue  
Above

Paul: "God is  
my witness."  
Act 24:16  
Herein.

upward Vertical &  
inward Horizontal  
outward



Character  
OF Love I Co. 13  
Fruit of the  
Spirit

Submissive  
To authority  
Obed. is better  
than Sacrifice.

deeds of Mercy  
Triumph in Judge.  
2:13

"Full"

Nathaniel

Real  
Genuine  
Transparent

10. The third word is the word "Kind." A person who is kind has a sweet reasonableness about him. He tempers mercy with justice. He is a man who knows how to forgive when he has a perfect right to condemn. It is the ability to extend to others the kindly consideration we want for ourselves, implying one who does not stand on his rights but gives way to the wishes of others.
11. The fourth word is the word "Obedience."
12. William Law said "Rules for Life" and the first one was "To fix it deep in my mind that I have but one business upon my hands, to seek for eternal happiness by doing the will of God."
13. Barclay says of this word that "true wisdom is not rigid and austere and beyond all appeal. It is willing to listen, willing to be persuaded, skilled in knowing when to wisely yield."
14. The fifth characteristic of wisdom which is from above is that it is "full of mercy."
15. What a contrast this is to the uncontrolled tongue in Verse 8. The tongue no one in the human race is able to tame. A restless, evil full of death-bringing poison. Matthew 5:7 "Happy are the kind and merciful for they shall be shown mercy."
16. "Lord help me live from day to day in such a self-forgetful way that even when I kneel to pray, my prayers will be for others. Help me in all the work I do to ever be sincere and true and know that all I do for you must needs be done for others. Let self be crucified, slain and buried deep and all in vain may efforts be to rise again unless to live for others. And when my work on earth is done and my new work in Heaven is begun may I forget the crown I've won while thinking still of others. Others Lord, yes others, let this my motto be. Help me to live for others that I may live like thee."
17. The sixth characteristic is "full of good fruits."
18. Galatians 5:22-23 gives us the fruitage of the spirit. "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self control. Against such there is no law."
19. Jacobsen points out that if you are wise, according to God's standard, you will show it by a holy and meek life. The wisdom which is from above seeks purity in Himself and peace with others.
20. The seventh word is the word "Impartial."
21. James has had some things to say about the matter of showing partiality.
22. The word has the idea of being undivided or single-minded, making no distinctions. It is a person who has fixed principles or a man of firm conviction. He is the opposite of the double-minded man who is unstable in all of his ways or the person showing partiality who is divided in his mind.
23. The eighth characteristic is "free from insincerity" or "without hypocrisy." The wisdom from above is not phony. It does not deal in deception or deceit for its own ends. It is not a wisdom clever at putting on disguises and concealing its real aims and motives.
24. This is just the opposite of what we have seen in Verse 14. "But if you are having bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, stop boasting and lying against the truth."



25. If we are going to follow James' Pointers for Progress, and especially No. 7, Grow in Good Judgment, it will be necessary for us to seek the Lord for this wisdom in Verse 17 so that our lives will be characterized by these things which have been stated here in this verse. Once again we can see that this is not something which we can produce in our selves, but it is produced by the Spirit of God and is given as a gift to those who are humble enough to receive it and recognize they have a need.

Verse Eighteen: And the fruit of righteousness is being sown in peace for those who are making peace

1. Robertson points out that this verse is a summary of all that he has had to say thus far. "They who make peace show a likeness to God, the great Maker of peace."
2. Psalms 1:3 "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth its fruit in its season. Its leaves also shall not wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."
3. Proverbs 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he that winneth souls is wise."
4. Paul says in Philippians 1:11 "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God."
5. Hebrews 12:11 "Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous but grievous. Nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them who are exercised by it."
6. Where there is bitterness and strife, there is a barren and sterile soul in which the seeds of righteousness can never grow and out of which no reward can ever come. The person responsible for the strife and bitterness and disturbing personal relationships has cut himself off from the reward which God gives to those who live His life. Without right relationships between man and man and man and God, there can no righteousness exist.

CONCLUSION: If our lives to this point have been governed by the wisdom which is from below, it would be well for us to pause and confess this to the Lord and deal with our phyness and tell Him that we long to have that wisdom described in Verse 17 which is from above in our lives. It is only when we get to the end of every attempt to do anything without Jesus Christ, when we lay aside our ambition, crucify our prejudices, die to our so-called intellectual approach and humble our pride that we can look up into His lovely face and say "Lord Jesus, I live, yet not I."

Lessons:

- ① Wisdom reflects your level of maturity.
  - ② There are two kinds of wisdom.
  - ③ Is the wisdom from Above characterized by your life..
  - ④ Of the 8 characteristics of the wisdom from Above. How many are now present in your life.
  - ⑤ Wisdom comes from maturity + experience.
- Solomon prayed for wisdom!!

John 15:  
Fruit  
More Fruit  
Much Fruit

Georg  
Kemble

Test  
Tempt  
Word  
Love  
Fruit  
Tongue  
Wisdom