

Living Faith Goes to Work

# JAMES 3:13-18

Wisdom Shows Works

<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. James 1:5

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

<sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

<sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

<sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:13–18

# James: Living Faith Goes to Work

## Genuine Faith Generates Steadiness

Summary Statement 1:2-8

*Real faith will be tested but trust God's wisdom to use various trials to mature you.*

Development: A living faith...

- values the riches of character development over passing material riches. 1:9-11
- perseveres by looking to the eternal reward. 1:12
- takes ownership of personal desires that tempt to sin. 1:13-15
- recognizes God's for His good and faithful care. 1:16-18

# James: Living Faith Goes to Work

## Genuine Faith Generates Love

Summary 1:19-27

*Real faith is a doer of God's Word evidenced in the way we act and speak towards people.*

Development: A living faith...

- loves without partiality. 2:1-13
- shows itself alive through works. 2:14- 26
- impacts our speech. 3:1-12
- applies the moral wisdom of God. 3:13-18

<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

James 1:5

**There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.**

**Proverbs 12:18**



<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among  
you?

**The Call: Godly wisdom is seen in good conduct.**

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

# What is biblical wisdom?

It is the ability to take the knowledge you have of God, His word, of various situations, and apply it SKILLFULLY to life.

IT IS TO LIVE LIFE SKILLFULLY!

## What is biblical wisdom?

The wisdom of Proverbs includes both the skillfulness of straight thinking and the skillfulness of moral character.

**The Call: Godly wisdom is seen in good conduct.**

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

**The Call: Godly wisdom is seen in good conduct.**

**Proverbs 11:2 <sup>2</sup> When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.**

# The Contrast: Worldly Wisdom vs. Godly Wisdom.

## Character

<sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

# The Contrast: Worldly Wisdom vs. Godly Wisdom.

## Source

<sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.



# The Contrast: Worldly Wisdom vs. Godly Wisdom.

## Effect

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## Effect

<sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

# The Development of Godly Wisdom.

Fear God: Take Him Serious & Trust Him

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Proverbs 9:10

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. <sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. <sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

**Proverbs 3:5–8**

# The Development of Godly Wisdom.

Ask for wisdom in faith.

<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

James 1:5

<sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

<sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:17–18