

# FAITH IN ACTION

## *Do I Have the Wisdom of God?*

### *James 3:13-18*

#### ***Got Wisdom? Prove It!***

***James 3:13 (KJV) 13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. peace.***

- The beginning of James 3 showed us how we as believers should *talk*, and now James teaches us about how we should *live*
- Here James asks, “*Who is wise and knowledgeable among you?*”
- Knowledge is the the accumulation of facts and information
- God calls believers to be more than people with ‘head knowledge’, God calls us to be people of *wisdom* as well
- Jesus said ***Matthew 10:16 (KJV) 16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.***
- James asks the question who among is wise and filled with knowledge?
- Wisdom is not proven by how much we *know*, wisdom is proven or demonstrated, by how we *live*
- Our wisdom will show in our:
- *Good conduct* – wisdom is the right application of knowledge
  - Our knowledge must be applied to our lives and life situations; in our conduct
  - We are practicing what we preach
- *Works* – The spiritually wise are prone to doing good deeds
- *Humility or Meekness* – Meekness means to be gentle, tender, mild, humble, but not in a way that’s passive; meekness is strength under control
- Meekness is a humble state of mind, but not cowardly
- Meekness is a strong state of mind, it looks at situations and wants justice to be done
- Meekness has strong self-control - Your able to control your mind and spirit, you’re able to do what God wants you to do and not what your flesh wants to do
- If we say we have wisdom, we must prove it or demonstrate it by our conduct, our deeds, and our behavior

#### ***The Character of Worldly Wisdom***

***14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.***

- People with godly wisdom don’t possess the traits of good behavior, good deeds and meekness
- The wisdom of the world stirs up:
- *Bitter envy* – a fierce desire to promote your own ideas designed to exclude the ideas of others

# FAITH IN ACTION

## *Do I Have the Wisdom of God?*

### *James 3:13-18*

- *There is a jealousy or envy toward anyone who tries to encroach in their world*
- *Anyone who disagrees with them is considered an enemy*
- This should not exist among believers who claim to possess the true wisdom of God
- *Strife* – Rivalry and selfish ambition
- The person with selfish ambition wants to put out front, recognized and acknowledged
- The world's wisdom stirs a spirit of boasting and self-glorification
- But how can you boast that you have the wisdom of God, when you're selfish, self-focused, proud, focused nothing but personal gain, and the recognition and honor of people
- Stop claiming to having the wisdom of God when you're not living it
- To lie against the truth is to claim what you don't have
- This "wisdom" does not come from above, really isn't wisdom at all because it measures and evaluates everything by worldly standards and makes personal gain its primary goal
- Worldly wisdom is:
  - Earthly - Having only this life in view
  - Sensual – of the flesh
    - The focus is on one's self and not God **1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV) 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**
- Devilish – it is of the devil and possesses traits of the devil like pride, envy, division, etc.
- Where there is an environment of envying and strife, there is confusion and every evil work
- The results of false, worldly wisdom are:
  - *Confusion* – disorder, instability, chaos
  - *Every evil work* - The wisdom of the world can't produce good, only evil
- Nothing good comes out of worldly wisdom

#### ***The Character of Divine Wisdom***

***17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace***

- In contrast to worldly wisdom, there is wisdom that comes from *above*; from God
- True wisdom comes from above **James 1:5 (KJV) 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.**

**FAITH IN ACTION**  
***Do I Have the Wisdom of God?***  
***James 3:13-18***

- Godly or divine wisdom is:
- Pure – free of defilement or impurities; morally pure, holy
  - Notice the text says, *first pure* because purity is first in importance and is the first things God give us when we seek true wisdom
- Peaceable – peace loving and peace promoting ***Matthew 5:9 (KJV) 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.***
- Gentle – humbly patient, sweetly reasonable, patient, able to extend kindness to others, without any hatred or malice
- Easily entreated – a willingness to yield, you're not stubborn
- Full of Mercy – an abundance of mercy and forgiveness ***Matthew 5:7 (KJV) 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.***
- Good fruit – Good works
  - You gladly perform all sorts of spiritual deeds ***Matthew 7:20 (KJV) 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.***
- Without partiality – never wavers, doesn't change
- Without hypocrisy – without pretending to be what it is not
- The result of true, godly wisdom is the *fruit of righteousness*
- Righteousness is associated with true wisdom because wisdom is righteous living
- The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by them that make peace
- What James is saying is the fruit or fruits of righteousness is re-sown by them that are making peace
- Our righteousness grows and flourishes in an environment or climate of peace