

The Book of James
James 3:13-18
T.A.G. Resource

Topic: Two forms of wisdom battle it out in this passage. True and gentle wisdom from above is contrasted with arrogant and selfish wisdom from earthly, naturalistic, and demonic sources could not be more stark. Believers should ask for, pursue, and embrace godly wisdom. Read the passage and highlight the differences between these two types of wisdom.

What are the hotbeds of worldly wisdom and how can people steer clear of them?

Association:

In what areas of your life (work, ministry, family, or social circles) are you most tempted to compete with others or feel resentful of their success? What does that reveal about where you are seeking validation?

James highlights “the meekness of wisdom.” Can you think of a recent situation where you felt the urge to prove you were right or superior? How might handling that situation with “gentleness under control” have looked different?

Earthly wisdom often feels practical or self-protective in the moment (e.g., holding a grudge, political maneuvering, winning an argument at all costs). Where have you seen “earthly, unspiritual” wisdom lead to “disorder” in your own life or relationships?

Look closely at the list in verse 17 (pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy, good fruits, impartial, sincere).

Which of these virtues currently comes most naturally to you through the Spirit?

Which one represents your biggest growth area right now?

Being submissive means being approachable, teachable, and willing to yield when appropriate. How well do you receive constructive criticism or disagreement? Is it easy or hard for people to approach you with tough feedback?

Guidance:

Peacemaking is active soil-work, not passive avoidance of conflict. Is there a strained relationship in your life right now where you need to stop “sowing strife” and actively start “sowing peace”? What is one practical step you can take this week to pursue reconciliation?

Pray with and for one another.

Cross-References: Verse 13—Proverbs 3:7; Matthew 11:29; Galatians 6:1.

Verse 14—Romans 2:8; 2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:19–21.

Verse 15—1 Corinthians 2:6–14; Jude 1:19.

Verse 16—1 Corinthians 14:33; 1 Corinthians 3:3.

Verse 17—Matthew 5:3–12; Galatians 5:22–23; Proverbs 8.

Verse 18—Isaiah 32:17; Matthew 5:9; Hebrews 12:11.