

Faith Resolutions

Week 7: I Will Live in God's Wisdom

Series:

- Week 1: I Will Endure Trials (James 1:1-12)
- Week 2: I Will Trust God During Temptation (James 1:13-18)
- Week 3: I Will Hear and Obey God's Word (James 1:19-27)
- Week 4: I Will Not Favor One Person Over Another (James 2:1-13)
- Week 5: I Will Demonstrate Faith by Belief and Works (James 2:14-26)
- Week 6: I Will Speak with Self-Control (James 3:1-12)
- Week 7: I Will Live in God's Wisdom (James 3:13-18)
- Week 8: I Will Draw Near to God (James 4:1-10)
- Week 9: I Will Not Be Arrogant (James 4:11-17)
- Week 10: I Will Not Oppress (James 5:1-6)
- Week 11: I Will Be Patient (James 5:7-12)
- Week 12: I Will Pray in Faith (James 5:13-18)
- Week 13: I Will Help Restore Those Who are Wandering (James 5:19-20)

Scripture:

James 3:13-18

Motivation (Why You Need to Know It):

What is a resolution? It's a decision and determination *to do* or *not do* something.

We often begin with good intentions. Great plans. We begin like gangbuster. I am gonna do this. So often after some time we get distracted, waylaid, and pulled aside. Or we even feel benched. Out of the game. Perhaps we gave up. (health, food, exercise, spending, repairing relationships, work harder in school, perhaps it is dealing with an addiction (cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, porn), Bible reading, prayer, giving,) No matter what it is that you are dealing with(struggling with) wisdom can help.

Wisdom is talked about throughout the Bible. I was grew up thinking that wisdom was only something found in those advanced in age. As I have gotten older I can look at the world around me and know that is simply not true. So, what is wisdom? Is there more than one type of wisdom? If so, what is the difference?

I want to open this morning very briefly looking at a man who began great. Filled with wisdom (given directly by God at the man's request) and ready to follow and be used by God. But somewhere along his journey he went way way off course. He at some point turned from his God given wisdom and spent a considerable amount of time going the opposite direction until one day he awoke and realized that his path was no longer God's path. The good news is that he made it back. His name is Solomon.

The Book of Proverbs is filled with outstanding practical wisdom from a man who walked closely with God. Check out Proverbs 2 when he speaks of wisdom. Calling us to "listen carefully to wisdom" "seek it like a

treasure” He says that God is the one that grants, Wisdom. Where do you think that James 1:5 comes from. If you lack wisdom. . . Ask God. Solomon says that with God’s given wisdom. . .

Proverbs 2:9-11 (NLT) Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy. Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe.

But as I mentioned Solomon drifted off the path of Godly Wisdom. It can happen to anyone. There is nearly 30 to 40 years between Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Temple built, palaces, built, a few marriages (hundred). Ecclesiastes presents a tragic journey. He tried it all. Solomon had driven hard and worked hard. Amassed massive amounts of money, and went all the way through whatever pleasure he could have wanted. List to what he says in the final verses of the book.

Ecclesiastes 12: 13-14 (NLT) That’s the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

James wrote about these resolutions that every Christian should have as a part of their life. This week we are looking at Wisdom. It is seen throughout the Bible.

Psalm 104:24 and Jeremiah 10:7&12 says that God founded or established the world by his Wisdom. James opens his book establishing that wisdom comes from God.

Seventh Faith Resolution – I Will Live by God’s Wisdom.

Information (What You Need to Know):

James opens these verses and asks a hard question to his readers –

James 3:13a (ESV) Who is wise and understanding among you?

Decision to Make – *What Kind of Wisdom will I pursue?*

- **Godly Wisdom** or True Wisdom

James 3:13 & 17-18 (ESV) **13** Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. **17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. **18** And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

- **Earthy Wisdom** or False Wisdom

James 3:14-16 (ESV) 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

For each of these Paul gives us a Motivation, the Characteristics, and the Results

Warren Weirsbe says it this way, “Who we are is what we live. What we live is what we sow.”

Who we are is in our hearts - It is where our faith or unbelief originate.

Very similar to James passage about the tongue last week Jesus says. . .

Matthew 15:18-19 (ESV) 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. Jesus understood that sin that is within each of us.

So did Paul.

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT) 9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

Motivation for Earthy Wisdom

James 3:14 (ESV) 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

-Bitter Jealousy

-Selfish Ambition

-Boasting/Arrogance

Characteristics of Earthly Wisdom

James 3:15 (ESV) 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

Earthly

Unspiritual

Demonic

Results of Earthly Wisdom

James 3:16 (ESV) 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

Disorder

Every Vile Practice

Motivation for True Wisdom

James 3:17 (ESV) 17a But the wisdom from above is first pure,

Purity

Characteristics of True Wisdom

James 3:17b (ESV) 17b then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Peaceable

Gentle

Open to Reason

Full of Mercy

Good Fruits

Impartial

Sincere

Results of True Wisdom

James 3:18 (ESV) 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

The Fruit of Righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Fruit of Righteousness

Peace

Warren Weirsbe says it this way, “Who we are is what we live. What we live is what we sow.”

Application (What You Need To Do):

In your daily decisions what will you chose? What words? What actions?

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT) 15 So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.