



# Practical Faith

*A Study in the Book of James*





## Wisdom Works

“One can have knowledge without having wisdom, but one cannot have wisdom without having knowledge.”

R.C. Sproul

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

2 Peter 3:18 ESV

“For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

Proverbs 2:6 ESV





Is Wisdom, Knowledge Applied?

What areas of life does wisdom impact?

Where have you seen wisdom's effectiveness?

Would you consider yourself wiser today than yesterday?





“for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another  
the word of knowledge through the same Spirit” 1 Cor. 12:8  
NKJV

Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do,  
develop good judgment.  
Prov 4:7 NLT





“I don’t think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.”

Abraham Lincoln

“The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are.”

C.S. Lewis





### What Wisdom Accomplishes:

- Optimal Decision-Making: Wisdom helps individuals determine not just what *can* be done, but what *should* be done, considering both short-term consequences and long-term impact.
- Effective Problem Solving: It allows people to navigate complex interpersonal relationships and difficult life situations by applying knowledge with empathy and fairness, often by looking beyond the immediate emotional response.
- Increased Resilience: Wisdom facilitates better self-regulation and emotional control, aiding in handling uncertainty and adapting to major changes.
- Ethical and Principled Living: It guides people toward choices that are honest and just, often reducing self-centeredness and fostering a sense of social responsibility or concern for the greater good.
- Balance of Perspectives: It enables the integration of multiple viewpoints, allowing individuals to navigate ambiguity effectively rather than settling for simplistic or emotional, short-sighted answers.





## 4 Types of Learning: Jewish Tradition

Traditional Jewish learning styles often utilize the PaRDeS framework, which categorizes text study into four levels:

\*Peshat (literal)

\*Remez (hint/allusion)

\*Derash (interpretive/homiletical)

\*Sod (hidden/mystical)





## 4 Types of Learners: Jewish Tradition

- The Sponge: Absorbs everything but cannot distinguish between significant and insignificant details.
- The Funnel: Lets information go in one ear and out the other, retaining nothing.
- The Strainer: Discards the wine (essential information) and retains the lees (irrelevant sediment).
- The Sieve: Filters out the flour (fine material) and retains the bran (essential points)





## Wisdom Works

- 1) Genuine Wisdom Vs 13
- 2) Worldly Wisdom Vs 14-16
- 3) Practical Wisdom Vs 17-18





## Wisdom Works

### James 3:13-18 ESV

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





# 1) Genuine Wisdom

**James 3:13** Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

What does a question require?

- \* Reflection
- \* Examination
- \* Evidence





# Wisdom

Where does wisdom come from?

## Proverbs 8 (Selected Verses)

1 Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice?

4 “To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man.

5 O simple ones, learn prudence O fools, learn sense.

6 Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right,

7 for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

9 They are all straight to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.

10 Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold,

11 for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

14 I have counsel and sound wisdom; I have insight; I have strength.





## Proverbs 8 (Selected Verses) cont.

17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

18 Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness.

19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.

20 I walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice,

21 granting an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

22 “The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old.

23 Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

27 When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

30 then I was beside him, like a master workman and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,

32 “And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways.

33 Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.

34 Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors.

35 For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord,

36 but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death.”





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

“**21** if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: **22** that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, **23** and be **renewed** in the spirit of your mind, **24** and that you **put on the new man** which was **created according to God**, in **true righteousness and holiness.**” Eph 4:21-24 NKJV

“The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.”

Psalm 25:9 NKJV





## Genuine Wisdom comes from being 'in Christ'.

The phrase "**in Christ**"—along with related phrases like "in Him" or "in the Lord"—**appears over 160 times in the New Testament**

### Key Aspects of "In Christ" References:

- **High Frequency:** While exact counts vary by translation, many sources cite over 130 occurrences of the phrase, with some expanding this to over 170 when including related phrases, says [Seedbed](#) and [the E. Stanley Jones Foundation](#).
- **Pauline Epistles:** Paul uses the phrase most frequently, especially in Ephesians (40 times), notes [this blog post from FICM](#).
- **Significance:** It defines the believer's new identity as a "**new creation**" ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)), **safe from condemnation** ([Romans 8:1](#)), and **blessed** with spiritual blessings ([Ephesians 1:3](#)), according to [Open Bible Info](#) and [Desiring God](#).
- **Key Verses:** Key passages include Romans 8:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20, and Ephesians 1:3-4





- Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are **in Christ** Jesus.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
- Galatians 2:20 “ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but **Christ who lives in me**. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
- Ephesians 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love”





## 2) Worldly Wisdom

“**14** But if you have **bitter jealousy** and **selfish ambition** in your heart, do not be **arrogant and so lie against the truth**. **15** This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is **earthly, natural, demonic**. **16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.”

**James 3:14-16 14 NASB 1995**

“Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. **2** You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the **world**, obeying the **devil**—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. **3** All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our **sinful nature**. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.”

**Ephesians 2:1-3 NLT**





“A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.”

Prov. 14:30 ESV

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” Phil 2:3 ESV

“For you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?”

1 Cor. 3:3 ESV





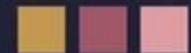
“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their *own* craftiness”  
1 Cor 3:19  
NKJV

“So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”  
Genesis 3:6-7 NKJV

“Woe to *those who are* wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!”

Isaiah 5:21 NKJV

“For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, ‘No one sees me’; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, ‘I *am*, and *there is* no one else besides me.’”  
Isaiah 47:10 NKJV





## God's dealing with 'man's wisdom'

“Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21** For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

1 Cor. 1:20-21 NASB 1995





### 3) Practical Wisdom

#### James 3:17-18

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. **18** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”





## Pure

“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” 2 Tim 2:22  
NKJV

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.”  
Psalm 119:9 ESV

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart”

1 Peter 1:22 NKJV





“Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if *there is* any **virtue** and if *there is* anything **praiseworthy**—**meditate on these things**. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, **these do**, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:8-9

As you examine this exhortation, can you imagine using this as a filter each time you share godly wisdom?

True

Noble

Just

Pure

Lovely

Good Report

Virtuous

Praiseworthy





But the **wisdom** that is **from above** is first **pure**

Lexicon :: Strong's G53 - <i>hagnos</i>	
Transliteration	Pronunciation
<i>hagnos</i> (Key)	hag-nos'

KJV Translation Count — Total: 8x

The KJV translates Strong's G53 in the following manner: **pure** (4x), **chaste** (3x), **clear** (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. exciting reverence, venerable, sacred
- II. pure
  1. pure from carnality, chaste, modest
  2. pure from every fault, immaculate
  3. clean





“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then **peaceable**, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**”                      Isaiah 9:6  
NKJV

I have said these things to you, that **in me you may have peace.** In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33 ESV

And let the **peace of Christ** rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.  
Colossians 3:15 ESV





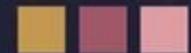
“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle**, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Proverbs 15:1 ESV

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23 ESV





“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, **willing to yield**, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

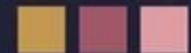
“Blessed is the one who fears the LORD always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.”

Proverbs 28:14 ESV

“He who is often reproved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing.”

Proverbs 29:1 ESV

“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.” Acts 7:51 ESV





“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, **full of mercy** and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” Matthew 5:17  
ESV

“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

Psalm 103:8 ESV





“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and **good fruits**, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

John 15:8 ESV

“**If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them**, then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.”

Leviticus 26:3-4 ESV





“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, **without partiality** and without hypocrisy.”

“I solemnly command you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus and the highest angels to obey these instructions without taking sides or showing favoritism to anyone.”

1 Tim 5:21 NLT





“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and **without hypocrisy.**”

“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. **2** For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

**3** “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? **4** How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? **5** Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.”

Matthew 7:1-5 NLT





## Wisdom “Works”

“Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

James 3:18 NKJV

Can you have dirty hands and a pure heart?

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Psalms 51:10 NKJV





“The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness,  
quietness and assurance forever.”

Isaiah 32:17 NKJV

“Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.”

Matthew 5:9 NKJV

\* Jesus Himself is our example!





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