

James: Doing > Hearing

Tale of Two Wisdoms

James 3:14-18

*To grow up spiritually—to be mature and complete, lacking in nothing (1:4)—
we must partner _____ God, not try and do this _____ God.*

*Biblical wisdom is a life-_____ God graciously gives us,
so we are able to do, consistently, the right thing in any given life-_____.*

How Wisdom Comes From God

- Wisdom from God begins with _____.

Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10 *“The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom.”*

“the fear of Yahweh” = seeing and responding to God for who he is—holy, awesome, loving and sovereign.

Deuteronomy 10:20-21 *Fear Yahweh your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.*

Psalm 33:18 *The eyes of Yahweh are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.*

Psalm 118:4 *Let those who fear Yahweh say: “His love endures forever.”*

Psalm 147:11 *Yahweh delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.*

- Wisdom from God is rooted “in _____”.

1 Corinthians 1:30 *Believers are “in Christ, who became to us wisdom from God.”*

- Wisdom from God is received through the _____.

Psalm 119:97-100: *Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. (NOTE: hearing and doing are parallel ideas—SHEMA)*

Colossians 3:16 - *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...*

- Wisdom from God comes through _____.

James 1:5 – *ask for it! God gives wisdom...*

..._____ (*without regard to merit*)

..._____ (*to all*)

..._____ (*no insults, shame or scolding*)

..._____ (*wisdom will be given*)

The Core Quality of Godly Wisdom: Meekness (3:13)

- Biblical meekness does not mean _____.

Moses - **Numbers 12:3**

Jesus - **Matthew 11:29**

- Biblical meekness speaks of _____ under _____.

1. **Ungodly wisdom causes a downward spiral into a _____ and _____ life. (3:14-16)**

The Dark Motives of Ungodly Wisdom:

- *bitter jealousy* – (literally, “harsh zeal”)
- *selfish ambition* – ἐριθεία, part ambition, part rivalry; used by Aristotle to speak of the vice of partisan politics

The Downward Spiral of Ungodly Wisdom:

- *earthly*
- *unspiritual*
- *demonic*

The Tragic Outcome of Ungodly Wisdom:

- *disorder* (chaos, instability)
- *every vile practice* (vile = worthless, bad)

2. **Godly wisdom transforms our _____ and our _____ to relate well with others. (3:17-18)**

The Positive Qualities of Godly Wisdom

- *pure*

The idea is “unmixed”. It’s the opposite of being “*double-minded*” **1:8**. Purity is a matter of _____.

Proverbs 10:9 *The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.*

- *peaceable*

Proverbs 3:17 *Wisdom’s ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.*

- *gentle* (courteous; kind)

- *open to reason* (reasonable)

Proverbs 12:15 - *The way of a fool seems right to him (doesn’t need to learn), but a wise man listens to advice.*

- *full of mercy and good fruit*

Proverbs 17:9 *He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.*

- *impartial and sincere* (without vacillation and hypocrisy)

Proverbs 28:13 *He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

The Positive Outcome of Godly Wisdom

- *Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

Colossians 2:3 *In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

Matthew 11:29-30 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

James 4:6 *God gives more grace...God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble (meek).*

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we must partner **with** God, not try and do this **for** God.

Biblical wisdom is a life-**skill** God graciously gives us,
so we are able to do, consistently, the right thing in any given life-**situation**.

How Wisdom Comes From God

- Wisdom from God begins with **reverence**.

Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10 “The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom.”

“the fear of Yahweh” = seeing and responding to God for who he is—holy, awesome, loving and sovereign.

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- Wisdom from God is rooted “in **Christ**”.

1 Corinthians 1:30 Believers are “in Christ, who became to us wisdom from God.”

- Wisdom from God is received through the **Scripture**.

Psalm 119:97-100: *Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. (NOTE: hearing and doing are parallel ideas—SHEMA)*

Colossians 3:16 - *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...*

- Wisdom from God comes through **prayer**.

James 1:5 – *ask for it!* God gives wisdom...

...**generously** (without regard to merit)

...**impartially** (to all)

...**uncritically** (no insults, shame or scolding)

...**unequivocally** (wisdom will be given)

The Core Quality of Godly Wisdom: Meekness (3:13)

- Biblical meekness does not mean **weakness**.

Moses - **Numbers 12:3**

Jesus - **Matthew 11:29**

- Biblical meekness speaks of **power** under **control**.

3. Ungodly wisdom causes a downward spiral into a **chaotic** and **worthless** life. (3:14-16)

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