

James: Faith at Work

"Wisdom: Above & Below" (Pt 1)

James 3:13-18

Sunday, August 30th, 2026

~ Our text today affords us a chance to think about one of the most valuable things that God gives out freely = wisdom.

> What is Wisdom?

- "Experience comes from what we have done. Wisdom comes from what we have done badly." (Theodore Levitt)
- "A wise man learns from the mistakes of others. Nobody lives long enough to make them all himself." (Anonymous Folk Wisdom)

~ Wisdom = the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the ability to discern inner qualities and relationships.

"To suppose that the gift of wisdom consists in a deepened insight into the meaning and purpose of events going on around us, an ability to see why God has done what He has done in a particular case, and what He is going to do next."

- J.I. Packer

I. The _____ of Wisdom (v. 13)

~ James starts off this section by asking a really important life question. That question is designed to help us understand the nature of wisdom.

~ Wisdom is something that can be shown and it does not exist if it is not shown. You can't just claim to have, then *bottle up and hide it!*

> Not His First "Rodeo"

* James 1:5 & James 1:21*

> This teaching is counter cultural. In a Hellenistic world, meekness was not a good thing. For the Greeks, meekness was another form of _____.

II. The Wisdom You _____: from Below (v. 14-16)

Origin - _____ / hell.

Occasion - self-centeredness.

Outcome - chaos, _____, wickedness

III. The Wisdom You _____: from Above (v. 17-18)

Origin - _____

Occasion - God-centered _____.

Outcome - peace, _____ and righteousness.

> How to Receive (Get) Wisdom!

a) _____

~ *"And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification and redemption."*

~ Paul used the phrase "in Christ" roughly 160 times in his letters. He did that so we could understand our unique relationship *with* Christ.

b) _____

~ Psalm 119:97-100 *"Oh how I love you law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. ..."*

c) _____

~ James 1:5 *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach..."*

~ This teaches us that praying for wisdom is one of the best prayers a Christian could ever pray!

d) _____

~ ** Psalm 111:10 ** Having reverence or a "fear" of God means we acknowledge Him as our Creator, as our Redeemer, as our King, and as our Heavenly Father.

> The only way anyone receives wisdom ...

Become a _____!