

## James: Faith at Work

### "Wisdom: Above & Below" (Pt 2)

James 3:17-18

Sunday, September 6th, 2026

~ Last week's sermon was an attempt to expositionally walk through these last 6 verses in chapter 3. Hopefully ... you saw that there are two different wisdoms in this world - earthly wisdom and Godly wisdom. Today, we will look at the profile of biblical wisdom!

#### ~ A Cliff Hanger ...

I closed last week with a thought provoking idea: To receive and grow in wisdom you must become a fool.... \* 1 Cor. 3:18-20 \*

~ When & Where I stumbled across this idea... a sermon delivered by John Piper in April, 2018. He duly noted ...

"To be a faithful Christian, to be obedient to God's word, to be truly wise in the eyes of God — in Corinth, or in Athens, {or in the middle of West Texas}— we must become fools. Thoughtful fools. Hopeful fools. Happy fools. Not self-pitying, dour, defensive, forlorn, miserable fools. But unashamed, happy fools."

> 1 Corinthians 1:17-21 ... Paul did not like wordy wisdom!

~ Paul was going toe to toe with the wisdom of man (of the world). He despised this wisdom because it *robbed the cross of Jesus* of all its power.

### The Attributes of Biblical Wisdom

a) \_\_\_\_\_

\* 1 John 3:3 ... Christ is pure! James will circle back on this concept in chapter four ... "**Purify your hearts, you double-minded.**"

b) Peace-\_\_\_\_\_

~ This means more than just loving peace! We must first know peace to love it. AND, this also means that we must not learn to make the mistake

of seeing peace or being peaceful as being someone who is always okay with just going with the flow and doing what everyone else wants to do. (Afraid of confrontation)

~ Ephesians 2:14 "**He himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility...**"

c) \_\_\_\_\_

~ This is a difficult Greek word to translate... the word doesn't explicitly mean gentle, but it communicates that concept. "Humble" or "humility" might be a better word..?

d) Open to \_\_\_\_\_

~ The word used here indicates that a person who possesses Godly wisdom is willing to \_\_\_\_\_ to persuasion or good reason.

e) Full of \_\_\_\_\_

Christian - Never ever forget that God is day by day, moment by moment, continuously merciful towards us! Therefore, we must learn to grow in and exhibit mercy to others!

f) \_\_\_\_\_

~ Note James 1:5-8; James has uncertainty and undivided in mind as he writes. Wisdom doesn't make room for uncertainty.

g) \_\_\_\_\_

~ The word here communicated an idea of not being a hypocrite; or not a \_\_\_\_\_. This word describes a behavior that is free from selfishness or a different agenda than what is being portrayed.

\*\* Regardless of the circumstances, or the people around him, Jesus was always sincere; never swaying away from the mission He was sent for.

~ Wisdom takes stand and fights against hypocrisy. ~

> *The Reason We Took Another Look at James 3:13-18...* the question humans have asked for centuries - "How do we find happiness in this life?" The answer is always in Jesus ....

~ Wisdom has a \_\_\_\_\_ in mind (2 Timothy 3:14-15)