



*Closing the Gap Between Belief and Behavior!*  
*November 16, 2025 – The Book of James*  
***Close the Gap with God's Wisdom! Part 2***

James 3:13-18 (ESV)

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

<sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

<sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

<sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

<sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

<sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

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*Proverbs 9:10a*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*

*1 Corinthians 2:2*

*I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

*Psalms 119:105*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

*Galatians 5:25*

*If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

***Wisdom is known by its fruit!***

*James 3:13. Also see Daniel 1:20; Acts 6:3,10; Ephesians 3:10*

***Two kinds of wisdom:***

> man's wisdom

*James 3:14-16; 1 Cor. 1:17-31; 2 Cor. 2:1-8; Isa. 55:8-9; Prov. 14:12; 16:25*

> God's wisdom

*James 3:17-18; Rom. 5:1; Gal. 5:22; Jn 14:27; Phi. 4:6-7; Eph. 4:1-3*

**--- How to gain wisdom ---**

**First: begin with a posture of reverence, honor, and submission to Christ!**

***1. Christ is wisdom from God.***

> *but we preach Christ crucified, 1 Cor. 1:23; 1:17, 18, 24, 30; 2:2*

***2. Maintain a posture of reverential honor and submission!***

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"*

*Proverbs 9:10a (and Psalm 111:10 John 7:17)*

**1) "Fear" does not mean "afraid"!**

*Psalms 27:1; 1 John 4:18; Matthew 7:11; Prov. 10:27; 14:26, 27; 19:23*

**2) "fear" is reverential honor and submission**

> *"The fear of the LORD ultimately expresses reverential submission to the Lord's will and thus characterizes a true worshiper (Dr. Allan Ross, EBC)*

**3) you honor and submit to His direction, not your desire**

*See James 1:14-15*

**So First: begin with a posture of reverence, honor, and submission to Christ our Lord!**

*He is God, I am not. Jesus is the Christ, I am not.*

**Second: Trust Him!**

Keep your faith active – James 2:22 vs. 1:6

> Christ "crucified" is our wisdom. What does "crucified" add?

He is just! He is loving! He is merciful! He is gracious!

> *Why can I trust Him?* He was crucified. He is just, love, merciful, and gracious.

**Third: Ask, seek, knock!**

*James 1:5; Proverbs 2:1-8; Matthew 7:11*

*Just ask for the "next good step" (Eph. 2:10)*

***Application questions on the back →***

--- Close the gap with God's wisdom! Part 2 ---

November 16, 2025

**SUNDAY after church...**

Think through your morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give! 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received! 3) List songs or lyrics that touched your heart.

**MONDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTED** The Old Testament pointed to the fear of the LORD as the beginning of wisdom. The New Testament adds that God puts His wisdom to us through Christ (1 Cor. 1:30). Read 1 Corinthians 1:30 and write out how Christ crucified expresses and gives us God's wisdom.

**PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

**TUESDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** When Proverbs 9:10a says that the "fear of the LORD" is the beginning of wisdom, why do we quickly think that we should be afraid of Him, of punishment, or failing, of not hearing Him, etc. Why does God not mean "afraid" (see verses on front)?

**Pray:** Pray over your applications.

**WEDNESDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** Often in wanting God's wisdom for a situation of crisis, we have strong feelings of what actually needs to be done, or the outcome, or a desire of ours. Read James 1:14-15 and write out why placing my desire (or wisdom) above God's is foolish.

**Pray:** Pray over your applications.

**THURSDAY and FRIDAY**

**READ** Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** He desires to give us wisdom and it prolongs life, is strong confidence, and is a fountain of life. He does this because He is a good Father (Matthew 7:11)! Write out why we often doubt this. Why do we so quickly doubt His goodness toward us?

**Pray:** Pray over your applications.

**SATURDAY**

**Prepare** your heart for Sunday's gathering by being ready to fully engage in the worship.