

Who Rules Your Heart?

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What kind of wisdom is shaping you?

Who is wise and understanding among you? James 3:13

True wisdom comes from God, not self.

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. James 3:15-16

True wisdom is revealed in a humble heart.

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. James 3:13-14

True wisdom is a life aligned with Christ's character and rule.

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. James 3:17-18

Wisdom is not merely what you know but who rules your heart.**The source of our wisdom shapes our hearts, and the condition of our hearts shapes the fruit of our lives.**

- Source >> Heart >> Fruit

How do we grow in wisdom from above?

- Live in the fear of the Lord. (Proverbs 9:10)
- Receive the loving discipline of the Lord. (Psalm 119:67, 71)
- Daily surrender before daily decisions.

Let's Talk About It

James challenges us to rethink what true wisdom really looks like—not something we simply claim, but something that shapes our lives and is revealed in how we live. He contrasts earthly wisdom, which is driven by selfish ambition and leads to disorder, with wisdom from above, which is marked by humility, purity, peace, and gentleness. James invites us to examine not just our words, but the posture of our hearts and the fruit of our lives. Real wisdom isn't proven by what we say, but by the way we treat others and the kind of life we produce. Where earthly wisdom creates tension and division, God's wisdom leads to peace and righteousness. Ultimately, James calls us to align our lives with God's character, allowing His wisdom to shape who we are from the inside out.

James 3:13-18; Proverbs 9:10; Psalm 119:67,71; Proverbs 3:11-12; Heb. 12:4-11

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read James 3:13-18. Describe the difference between earthly wisdom and wisdom from above. What do they look like in everyday life?
- Which kind of wisdom do you see influencing your life more right now? Why? Are there areas where your actions don't fully align with the wisdom you believe is true?
- What attitudes (like pride, comparison, or selfish ambition) tend to pull you toward earthly wisdom?
- How can you tell when your decisions are being shaped more by the world than by God?
- What is one decision you're facing where you need to seek God's wisdom?

Take a Step

- Identify one decision you're facing and intentionally ask, "What would wisdom from above look like here?"—then act on it.
- Notice where pride or selfish ambition shows up in your life this week, and choose to surrender it to God and respond with humility.

Here's My Prayer

God, thank You for showing me what true wisdom looks like. Help me not just talk about it, but live it out in the way I think, respond, and treat others. Shape my heart to reflect Your wisdom—full of humility, peace, and mercy—and guide my decisions this week so my life aligns with who You are. In Jesus' name, amen.