

**Series: "Marks Of Maturity"**  
**"Wisdom"**  
**James 3:13-18**  
**Study-7**

James continues with the **"Marks of Maturity "**  
James has spoken about **faith in Works**, then **faith in Words**; now, he deals with the subject of **"Wisdom."**

**Proverbs 4:7; Proverbs 8:11**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "We Need Wisdom, World's Wisdom Is Earthly, Natural, And Demonic God's Wisdom Is Peaceable, Gentle, Reasonable."

- 1. Verse 13 The Proof Of True Wisdom:**
- 2. Verses 14-16 Earthly Wisdom and Characteristics:**
- 3. Verses 17-18 Heavenly Wisdom and Characteristics:**

**1. Verse 13 The Proof Of True Wisdom:**

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

**Context** – There were those in the church who wanted to teach, but they needed to control their tongues.

**James 3:1 Let not many of you become teachers,**

Literally "*My brothers, do not crowd in to be teachers*" **stricter judgment.**  
**(Tongue** – speak the truth, teachers are judged for what they say, teach)  
Now lacked in wisdom, having something to say!

**Who among you is wise and understanding?**

There is a vast difference between earthly wisdom and godly wisdom.

**wise - Greek** "*wise man*"

*"Denotes one who has intelligence and education above the average, expert/specialist," a technical term for a teacher.*

**The Scriptures Can Make Us Wise: 2 Timothy 3:15**

**understanding** - Occurs only once in the NT:

*"One who is knowledgeable, skilled in some area of learning, expert."*  
Context someone accurate, sufficient, and reliable.

**"Knowledge** - the possession of facts;

**Wisdom** - is the proper use and application of knowledge."

***True wisdom and understanding will be manifested in conduct.***

**We Will Receive Wisdom Through Reverence: Psalm 111:10**

**We Receive Wisdom Through Conversion: "in Christ" 161 times** by Paul.

## 1 Corinthians 1:30

**We Receive Wisdom From Scripture: Psalm 119:97-100; Colossians 3:16**  
**We Receive Wisdom Through Prayer: James 1:5**

Let him show by his good behavior his deeds

James says "Show, Not Speak!"

**good behavior (K.J.V. conversation)**, manner of life, attitude, and action)

**good behavior** - "*is a good life, beautiful, attractive life*" (noble). **1 Peter 3:2**

**his deeds in the gentleness** - "*mild,*" used to describe tame animals, soothing medicines, gentle breeze, great strength under control." **Jesus - Matthew 11:29**  
**for I am gentle and humble in heart; 1 Peter 3:15 yet with gentleness and reverence;**

**gentleness of wisdom.**

*"Is the ability to apply knowledge, experience, understanding, and insight to act or decide soundly."*

## **2. Verses 14-16 Earthly Wisdom and Characteristics:**

**James 3:14 Consequences of Earthly Wisdom: But if you have,**

This implies that the condition actually existed and was being lived out.

*"Since you have"*

**Three Point Description Of A Lack Of Wisdom:**

**1. Jealous Anger: bitter jealousy** - "*Harsh zeal.*"

Jealousy is not evil in itself (God is a jealous God), but when rooted in self.

**Romans 10:2**

**bitter jealousy** – "*fierce desire to promote one's own opinion to the exclusion of others*" **Works of the flesh, Galatians 5:20.**

**2. Selfish Ambition:** The wretched twin of bitter jealousy is **selfish ambition.**

**(strife - Party spirit)** "*It was used by the Greeks to describe a politician canvassing for votes.*" The same was used of Paul in **Philippians 1:17**

Self-seeking to get support for our own agendas. **Works of the flesh, Galatians 5:20**

**3. Proud Arrogance: do not be arrogant (boasting)** pride loves to boast. When wisdom of God is exhibited it is so that God will be glorified.

**and so lie against the truth.** Don't claim that bitter envy and party spirit then boast and say it is the result of God's wisdom. "*Do not speak boastfully and falsely, in defiance of the truth*"

**Observe The Digression:** *Selfish ambition leads to party spirit and rivalry, in order to win we resort to boasting, this involves lies.*

**James 3:15** This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, not of God.

### **3 Point Description Of Worldly Wisdom, The Opposite Of Godly Wisdom:**

**#1. Worldly Wisdom Is Earthy: but is earthly, (world)** the world is the source and boundary. Here were believers that have been born from above. *Motive and methods are based on that which is temporal and mundane. Everything is determined by worldly gain and makes personal gain the highest goal.* **1 Corinthians 1:20-21; Colossians 2:8; Colossians 3:1**

**#2. Worldly Wisdom Is Natural: Natural, (sensual, flesh)** Greek word meaning, "life," or "soul." Greek adjective meaning "natural," "sensual," or "animal," relating to the soul rather than the spirit. **Psyche**, our English word "**Psychology**" is derived from it. Which natural is contrasted to that which is spiritual.

This is a wisdom that gets its origin in man's nature, totally apart from the Spirit of God.

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

**The goal of this natural wisdom is for the glory of man.**

**#3. Worldly Wisdom Is Demonic: Demonic - (devilish)** *"Prompted by evil spirits rather than God's Spirit."* This started in **Genesis 3** and has continued, the idea that we can be gods. The devil before he fell in his pride was said to possess wisdom. **Ezekiel 28:12**

False teachers are abounding in the world today. **Matthew 7:15-20** warned against

**James 3:16** **jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder (confusion)** *"to disturb," "unstable," "unruly."* **Matthew 16:24**

**God Is Not The Author of Confusion: 1 Corinthians 14:33**

**and every evil thing. evil - "worthless, of no account."** **Ephesians 5:11**

**'Earthly wisdom does lead to achievement but ultimately at too high a cost.'** **Matthew 16:26**

### **3. Verses 17-18 Heavenly Wisdom and Characteristics:**

**James 3:17** **But** *"in contrast,"* **the wisdom from above** Comes from God, not the world that is **earthy, natural, demonic**

**James 3:17-18** James Gives **Eight Characteristics Of God's Wisdom From Above.**

**1. Pure: But the wisdom from above is first pure,**  
**Pure** - *"it is undefiled, morally pure. It is being unmixed."*  
Moral purity before God, devotional purity in our focus on Him.  
**Matthew 5:8; 1 John 3:3**

**2. Peaceable: then peaceable,**  
Literally - *"peace-loving"* Purity must come first, then peace.  
There is a false peace that is not from above. **Matthew 5:9**

**3. Forbearing: gentle,** *"a person who, when wronged, nevertheless forgoes his right."* Not harsh or critical but forbearing to others. The person who does not demand his rights. **Galatians 5:23 gentleness** – Fruit of the Spirit

**4. Reasonable: reasonable, (only here in the NT)**  
*"Willing to submit to persuasion, or open to reason."*  
Easy to live with! Teachable.

**5. Mercy: full of mercy** *"not just compassion which results in pity and sympathy, it is compassion in action."* **Psalms 86:5**

**6. Bountiful: and good fruits,** We can have all the right words and have a fountain of advice, but if it does not result in action, it is not true wisdom from God. **Galatians 5:22-23** kind actions, helpful deeds. **1 Corinthians 15:58**

**7. Steadfast: unwavering,** It is *"steady, fixed principles, without doubting. It does not vacillate, taking one position in one circumstance and another in a different situation."* Not changing from day to day. **Malachi 3:6**

**8. Sincere: without hypocrisy.** This was *"one who speaks from under, one who wears a mask, an actor."* **Romans 12:9**  
Latin - *"without wax"*, sincere sculptor, to mix wax with dust. **2 Corinthians 1:12**

**James 3:18 And the seed whose fruit** - Fruit is the result of life.  
Fruit has in it seeds for more fruit.

**is righteousness is sown**

It is usually the seed that is sown, but here it is the fruit.

**in peace by those who make peace. (NLT) Proverbs 3:13-17**

#### **Application:**

1. Reverence/Fear: For The Fear Of The Lord Is The Beginning Of Wisdom. **Psalms 111:10**
2. Conversion: Receiving Christ Who Is "Wisdom From God." **1 Corinthians 1:30**
3. Scripture: Which Conveys The Wisdom Of God. **Psalms 119:97-100**
4. Prayer: Which Brings Wisdom For The Asking. **James 1:5**