



PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Lesson Eight: Operating In True Wisdom

James 3:13-18

Background Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:19-29

Wisdom (in general):

Knowledge that is gained by having many experiences in life

The natural ability to understand things that most other people cannot understand

Knowledge of what is proper or reasonable : good sense or judgment

Wisdom is the correct application of Knowledge

1. Who is the wisest person you know? Explain what you see in that person's life that shows wisdom.

2. How often does true wisdom really count when we are selecting leaders in the church? Leaders in politics?

3. Have you ever known anyone who claimed to be wise, but acted foolishly?

The Context

In this passage James makes a transition from discussing teachers and the tongue to dealing with wisdom's impact on everyday life. He supports the truth revealed in the Old Testament literature that wisdom is divided into two realms, man's and God's, earthly and heavenly.

James offers wisdom as still another test of living faith. The kind of wisdom a person possesses will be revealed by the kind of life he lives. Those who possess the wisdom of man, the wisdom from below, will demonstrate by their lives that they have no saving relationship with Jesus Christ and no desire to worship, serve or obey Him. On the other hand, those who possess genuine saving faith will manifest the wisdom of God, the wisdom from above.

James 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



James 3:13

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. (*Proverbs 2:1-7*)

James 3:14

But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. (*Romans 13:13*)

James 3:15

This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. (*Philippians 3:18-19*)

James 3:16

For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (*Galatians 5:19-21, 1Cor. 3:1-3*)

James 3:17

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (*1 Cor. 2:6-7, Romans 12:9*)

James 3:18

Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (*Proverbs 11:18, Hosea 10:12 and Philippians 1:11*)



1. How can a person tell if the wisdom he/she is receiving is man's or God's?

2. What are some concrete ways Christian can acquire God's wisdom? Try to list ten. Circle the ones you regularly practice. Put a checkmark by the activities that need to become part of your daily experience.

3. What can you do today to become more passionate about pursuing God's wisdom and seeking it like treasure?
