



James | Faith That Works – Week 6 “Wisdom Works”

Wisdom is the knowledge of God’s truth and the faith to apply it to your everyday life.

James 3:13-18 (NIV)

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

1. Wisdom is knowing that God is for God.

- Worldly wisdom believes God’s primary objective is my good.
(Foolishness)

Exodus 34:14 (NIV)

Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

Psalms 23:1-3 (NIV)

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.

- Wisdom knows there is a God and it is not me.

2. Wisdom is living for God’s glory above all things.

- The more your life is about you, the more miserable your life will be.
- The abundant life begins when you realize that God is the point - not you.

3. Wisdom is evident.

- Is my life characterized by fear of God or disrespect of God?

Proverbs 9:10 (NIV)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

- Is my life “earthly” or “heavenly”?
- Is my life characterized by peace or envy?

How do I grow in wisdom:

Wallow:

- God is the source.

Proverbs 2:6 (NIV)

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

- The Word is the foundation.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

- Prayer is a means of receiving it.

James 1:5 (NIV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Walk:

Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Worship:

- Your joy is incomplete until it is expressed in worship!

Colossians 3:1-2 (NIV)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.