



“Wisdom” James 3:13-18

If God were to grant you one wish, what would you ask for?
In 1Kings 3 when Solomon had just begun his reign over Israel. God came to him and said, “Ask me for whatever you want, and I’ll give it to you.” And so, Solomon, out of all the things he could have chosen he asked not for wealth, power or fame but for wisdom. Solomon later writes that wisdom is more valuable than jewels and nothing you desire compares with wisdom (Pro3:15, 8:11).
We live in a day and time of unprecedented access to information unlike any other time in history. Though, we are drowning in information, yet we are dying of thirst for wisdom.

What Wisdom Is? vv13 & 18

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

¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

➔ It is an attractive lifestyle of self-forgetfulness that produces peace in relationships. (Ps19:7; 2Tim3:16-17; Gal5:23; Rom12:9-21; Pro.12:18, 15:1; 18:21)

What Wisdom Isn’t? vv14-16

¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ 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.

➔ It isn’t an unattractive lifestyle of self-absorption that produces combat in relationships. (2Cor12:20; Gal5:20; Phil2:3)

What Wisdom Does? vv17-18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. (1Cor2:6-7; Luke 6:32-36; Rom12:9; Matt5:9)

If I’m wise...

- ✓ I won’t compromise my integrity. “pure”
- ✓ I won’t antagonize your anger. “peaceable”

- ✓ I won’t minimize your feelings. “gentle”
- ✓ I won’t criticize your suggestions. “open to reason”
- ✓ I won’t emphasize your mistakes. “full of mercy and good fruits”
- ✓ I won’t disguise my own weaknesses. “impartial and sincere”

How to Get Wisdom?

V15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above...

V17 But the wisdom from above...

Col2:3 In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Pro9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

- ➔ The Fear of Lord is a joyful awe and wonder of the beauty and glory of who Christ is and what He has done for us that ruins us for anything else.
- ➔ Wisdom is not a technique to be mastered but a relationship to be enjoyed and celebrated as you daily grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2Pet3:18)

Growing Notes

- 1) If God were to grant you one wish, what would you ask for? What did Solomon in 1Kings 3 ask for and why (Pro3:15, 8:11)? We are living in a culture today where we are drowning in information and yet dying of thirst for wisdom particularly in healthy relationships. Explain.
- 2) Read James 3:13-18. How does James describe a wise and understanding person (v13)? Is it possible to hide bitter jealousy and selfish ambition (v14)? How does James describe wisdom that doesn’t come from above (v15) and what does it produce (v16)? How does He describe wisdom from above & what does it produce (v17)?
- 3) Review What Wisdom Is (vv13 & 18). What is most compelling to you about wisdom from above? Review What Wisdom Isn’t (vv14-16). What is most convicting to you about this wisdom not from above?
- 4) Review What Wisdom Does (vv17-18). Which one(s) are strengths and which one(s) are growth areas for you? How do we get wisdom (Col3:2; Pro9:10)? What is the fear of the Lord? Why is wisdom not a technique to be mastered but a relationship to be enjoyed and celebrated? What is God speaking to you from this study? What are your next steps in growing in relational wisdom? Pray.