

# LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

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## THE WISDOM FROM ABOVE

James 3:13-18

Life isn't easy. It is filled with perplexing problems that often overwhelm us. We seek for solutions and answers. We long for the wisdom to help us make right and just decisions. Solomon upon becoming King, felt helpless and incapable of the responsibility:

"And now, O Lord my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" 1Kings 3:7-9

God responded by giving Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart. 4:29.

James asks the question: "Who is wise and understanding among you?"

The answer to that question is not left up to subjective opinion. The possession of true wisdom can be demonstrated. The determination is made by observing two things:

1. His life. Let him show by a good life. A wise man is a good man. He knows the folly of sin and the endless heartache and trouble it brings.

2. What he does, he does in the meekness of wisdom. Not boastful or arrogant.

Wisdom is not evidenced by argument or assertion, but by a godly life garnished with good deeds.

Not by words, but by works.

As is usually the case, the world and God differ in their views regarding this important topic.

### I. The Wisdom of the World.

a. Bitter jealousy and faction in your heart. Denotes the envy and jealousy one experiences in the contemplation of another's possessions or accomplishments. Bitter jealousy leaves the heart with an unpleasant sensation. Much like our tastebuds react to a bitter substance in the mouth.

Faction refers to partisanship or selfishness which exists in the heart where such desires motivate the possessor. Envy and jealousy lead to faction, and is produced by improper zeal which has as its aim the acquisition of that possessed by others.

People who entertain bitterness and the party-spirit in their hearts, often lie against the truth i.e. they are false to the truth. We are false to the truth, when we violate it.

b. This wisdom is not from God. It does not keep on coming down. For anyone to claim to be in possession of a wisdom, the fruits of which are alienation, division, and disruption of the body of Christ, demonstrates that such wisdom is not from above but is earthly, sensual, and devilish.

earthly--worldly, such wisdom sets its affection on things of the earth. Not on heavenly things.

sensual--a wisdom that influences the lower and baser nature of man, hence does not originate with God.

devilish--It is devilish because it prompts those possessed of it to act like demons i.e. full of malice, ambition, egotism, malignity, and pride.

## II. The Wisdom From Above.

a. Pure--i.e. that which is uncontaminated, without fault, wholly good. The kind of goodness that shrinks from all evil. A state of mind without which none can see God. A wise man is free from defilement.

b. Peaceable--peace-loving, exhibiting that disposition in the individual which produces and maintains peace. No blessing is pronounced on those who cause dissension and whose activities produce strife. Not argumentative, or contrary.

c. Gentle--that which is reasonable, fair in dealing, designates an attitude of forbearance, the exhibition of a disposition which does not demand its rights, but is willing, if necessary, to suffer wrong in the course of right.

d. Easy to be entreated--persuadable, willing to consider the other side. Open to reason, ever ready to hear what others have to say and willing to yield to what is right.

e. Full of mercy and good fruits--the writer goes from attitude to conduct in these two qualities. A visible aspect of the wisdom which he possesses. His behavior is one of compassion, a disposition evidencing a desire to help those in distress, the good fruits result from such an attitude of heart. Tree is known by its fruits.

f. Without variance and hypocrisy--One without variance is one who does not doubt, is not drawn by divided opinions, and is stable in all his ways. He is the very opposite of the double-minded man. The wisdom from above finds its expression in the stability and firmness one possesses in his views regarding bible teaching.

A hypocrite is one who practices deception, one who appears to be something he really is not. The wisdom from above does not prompt one to wear a mask.

## III. How The Wisdom From Above Behaves:

## 1. In Its Relationship To Others.

### a. Parents:

Prov. 13:1 "A wise son heareth his fathers instruction"

Prov. 15:5 "A fool despiseth his fathers correction"

Ex.20:12 "Honor thy father and mother..."

Eph. 6:1-2 "Fathers provoke not your..." "Children obey your..."

1. Obedience shows honor: Honor means not only respect and politeness, but involves ones manner of life that reflects favorably upon your parents.

Rebellion and disobedience will have far reaching effects. You will be affected. The more stubborn and rebellious one becomes, the harder they make it on themselves.

2. Obedience brings contentment: When children are raised to understand the limits of what is allowed, the boundaries of acceptable conduct, they are much happier than those who push hard to discover their limits.

3. Obedience to parents shows trust: Parents must never betray that trust. Godly parents know what is best for their children. The Lord did not put children in charge of families. Spiritually minded parents see and know what is best for their children. This is why honoring them generally brings a long life.

4. Obedience to parents is the basis for learning obedience to God: Jesus was subject to his parents,(Luke 2:51) while he pursued his "Father's business." Children who learn to obey godly parents, usually obey God when they reach the proper age.

### b. Harkens to counsel.

Prov. 12:15 "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise." "A fool won't listen, you can't teach him, he knows it all, and has to learn the hard way.

2Thess.3:2 "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men."

### c. Refraineth his lips.

Prov.10:19 "He that refraineth his lips is wise."

Why? " In a multitude of words there wanteth not sin"

Prov. 17:28 "Even a fool when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise."

Prov. 29:11 "A fool uttereth all his mind."

It is not always wise to say what you think about others.If they were listening, would we say it?

Psa. 39:11 "I will take heed unto my ways that I sin not with my tongue."

Prov. 21:23 "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles.

## 2. In Its Relationship To Sin.

a. Fears Evil and departs from it.

Prov. 14:6 "A wise man feareth and departeth from evil."

Heb. 3:13 "Lest any be hardened through the deceitfulness..."

He knows what evil has done and will do. Sin offers one thing but brings something else. Do not be the fool who says he will try anything once.

## 3. In Its Relationship To God.

a. Hears and Obeys the Lord.

Matt. 7:24-27---Blessed is the man who heareth these sayings of mine..."

Eccl. 12:13 "Fear God and keep commandments...the whole duty of man.

Jas. 1:22-25 "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only" The man who only hears deceives himself and is like a man looking into a mirror, then forgets what he sees.

b. Prepares to Meet God.

Wise to prepare--foolish to not. Amos 4:12

The man who prepares is like:

The wise man who anticipates the storm and builds upon the rock. Mt. 7:24-27

He anticipates the coming of the bridegroom and fills his vessel with oil. Mt. 25:1-13

His philosophy is that of the ant. Prov. 30:25

The wise man does not wait until tomorrow. He prepares today.