

James

Faith – Wisdom - Action

Chapter 3 - Verses 13-18

James 3:13-18 (NIV)

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his 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, of the devil.

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 raise a harvest of righteousness.

Without a baseline of God's Word then only our experience molds our "truth".

How does one find wisdom:

- You have to want to be wise.
- You have to go to the Source of Wisdom.
- You have to hang out with wise people.

So what short circuits wisdom?

- Not living with our eyes humbly wide open.
- Not asking God, "How does Your Word apply to me?"
- Not meditating on God's Word

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (NIV)

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

²² Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,

²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

²⁶ Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

²⁸ He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are,

²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

³¹ Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."