

Where Comes Wisdom?

"What Happens Next" Series- Part 06

Share/Connect time: What lesson does God have to teach you over and over again? Why do you suppose that God hasn't given up and keeps bringing this lesson before you?

What is Wisdom? As with many topics, different individuals can have different opinions on how to define wisdom. Let's talk about it in our study today! Read each of the following 3 definitions of wisdom and discuss/identify at least one main merit for each:

1. Billy Graham sums it up this way, "*knowledge is horizontal...but, wisdom is vertical – it comes down from above.*"
2. Dr. Tony Evans said, "*wisdom is the spiritual insight for earthly application, the ability to know what God wants and the know-how to apply it where you live.*"
3. Confucius stated: "*By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.*"

Searching the three quotes above, what three "**must have**" words would you use in your own personal definition of wisdom?

Book: James 3:13-18

James 3:13 If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.

James 3:14 But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying.

James 3:15 For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.

James 3:16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.

James 3:18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

Let's get into the Word:

According to James, wisdom can be defined as either Godly (Divine origin) or Worldly (man-made and man-centered). First, let's discuss the wisdom that is man-made:

What is the origin of jealousy and how does it relate and intersect with wisdom? (verses 14-16)

James is clear...Godly wisdom comes from God Himself (vs. 17). Other Scriptures verify this truth:
 -For the LORD grants wisdom! From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. - Pro. 2:6
 - If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. -James 1:5
 -"But do people know where to find wisdom? Where can they find understanding? God alone understands the way to wisdom; He knows where it can be found, -Job 28:20, 23

In verse 3:17, James lists seven (7) characteristics of God's wisdom. Identify them, discuss what the word means, and give practical ways of demonstrating this kind of wisdom to the conflicts in our culture today:

<u>The Characteristic</u>	<u>What it means</u>	<u>Example of how I can apply it today</u>
1. <i>Pure</i>		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7. <i>Sincere</i>		

Which of the seven qualities of godly wisdom do you most need to work on? How will you do it?

According to verse 3:18, what is the correlation between being a peacemaker and having Godly wisdom?

Homework:

1. Which of the traits of *worldly* "wisdom" are you most prone to? How will you guard against it?
2. Has God brought to your mind someone with whom you need to make "peace"? How will you start the process?