



---

BOOK OF JAMES

## Wisdom from Above

### Who is Wise?

James 3:13 (NIV) Who is wise and understanding among you?

Hebrew word for “wisdom”: Skill in living.

James 3:13 (NIV) Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

God doesn't make me better than everyone else.  
He makes me better than myself.

James 3:14-16 (NIV) But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

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.

James 3:17-18 (NIV) 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. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

## Wisdom from Above

### 1. The wise have a pure heart.

James 3:17-18 (NIV) But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure.

Titus 1:15 (NLT) Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted.

Matthew 5:8 (NIV) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

James 4:4 (NIV) You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

James 4:8 (NLT) Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

How much of the world am I going to allow in my life?

### 2. The wise love peace.

James 3:17-18 (NIV) But the wisdom that comes from heaven is... peace-loving.

James 1:20 (NIV) Human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Proverbs 14:29 (TLB) A wise man controls his temper. He knows that anger causes mistakes.

Proverbs 20:3 (MSG) It's a mark of good character to avert quarrels, but fools love to pick fights.

Conflict cannot continue without my participation.

### 3. The wise consider it.

James 3:17-18 (NIV) But the wisdom that comes from heaven is...

considerate. James 3:13 (NIV) Who is wise and understanding among you?

Romans 15:1-3 (NLT) We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. For even Christ didn't live to please himself.

“Give your thoughts a break. You already think them.” – John Maxwell

### 4. The wise are willing to yield.

James 3:17-18 (NIV) But the wisdom that comes from heaven is... submissive.

Proverbs 12:15 (NLT) Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.

Am I reasonable?



---

BOOK OF JAMES

5. The wise minimize the mistakes of others.

James 3:17-18 (NIV) But the wisdom that comes from heaven is... full of mercy and good fruit.

James 2:12-13 (NIV) Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

I'd rather stand before God having loved too much than having judged too harshly.

What do I need to stop bringing up?

6. The wise are authentic.

James 3:17-18 (NIV) But the wisdom that comes from heaven is... impartial and sincere.

What am I hiding?

Why does God want us wise?

James 3:18 (NIV) Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

---

NOTES: