

# WISDOM THAT COMES FROM ABOVE

**Date:** 26 April 2026

**Sermon Text:** James 3:13-18

**Theme:** True wisdom from God is revealed not by what we say, but by how we live, producing righteousness now and glory in eternity.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- There is a wisdom that sounds right but is wrong.
- There is a Christianity that speaks but does not submit.

James does not ask: What do you know? Or What do you say?

He asks: What is governing your life?

True spirituality is not measured by knowledge language activity

But by what rules the heart and shapes the life.

Before James describes true wisdom, he exposes false confidence.

## 2. WHO WAS JAMES?

### 2.1 Brother of Jesus, Yet Unbelieving

- Grew up with Jesus
- Saw His life
- Yet did not believe

John 7:5 "Even His brothers did not believe in Him."

### 2.2 The Resurrection Changed Him

1 Corinthians 15:7 Jesus appeared to James

- From skeptic → servant
- From familiarity → submission

### 2.3 Leader of the Jerusalem Church: Acts 15

- Key voice in the Jerusalem Council
- Led the church for ~30 years

### 2.4 Known as “James the Just”: Deeply righteous life Known for integrity

### 2.5 “Camel Knees”: Constant prayer life

Knees hardened from kneeling Key Insight James does not write as a theorist, but as a transformed man.

## 3. THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

Purpose:

- Written to scattered believers
- Exposes false faith
- Calls for practical righteousness

Key Theme:

Faith that does not produce works is dead.

Context of Chapter 3:

- Warning about teachers (v.1)
- The power and danger of the tongue (v.2-12)
- Transition to wisdom (v.13-18)

Key Flow:

Tongue reveals heart → Heart reveals wisdom → Wisdom reveals source.

## 4. WISDOM FROM HEAVEN IMPACTS OUR WORKS | JAMES 3:13 |

### “LET HIM SHOW IT”

4.1 Wisdom Must Be Visible Not claimed but demonstrated.

4.2 Speech → Conduct

- Words reveal
- Life confirms

Matthew 12:34 *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”*

4.3 Meekness of Wisdom

- Humility
- Submission
- Strength under control

Key Truth: Wisdom is not proven in speech, but in consistent conduct.

*“If your wisdom has not changed your walk, it has not touched your heart.”*

## 5. HOW TO DISCERN TRUE VS FALSE WISDOM | JAMES 3:14-16

Diagnostic Language

Wisdom is revealed through

- speech
- reactions
- relationships
- ministry motives

Root Issue: THE HEART *“In your hearts...”* The issue is not behavior, it is source.

5.1 INTERNAL SIGNS OF FALSE WISDOM

a) Bitter Envy

- Resentment at others' success
- Identity rooted in comparison

*Proverbs 14:30 "Envy is rottenness to the bones."*

b) Self-Seeking

- Ambition driven by self
- Desire for recognition, control

*Philippians 2:3 "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition..."*

Contrast: Christlike humility (Philippians 2:5-8)

c) "In Your Hearts"

- Hidden, internal
- Eventually revealed

*"You can hide your motives for a moment, but your life will eventually expose them."*

5.2 RESULT OF FALSE WISDOM (v.16)

a) Confusion (disorder, instability)

- Broken relationships
- Lack of peace

b) Every Evil Thing

- Division
- Pride
- Conflict
- Sin multiplies

Key Truth: False wisdom never stays contained; it spreads destruction.

*"Where self-rules, everything eventually breaks."*

## 6. THE QUALITIES OF WISDOM FROM HEAVEN | JAMES 3:17-18

### 6.0 SOURCE

- Proverbs 2:6: God gives wisdom
- James 1:5: Ask God
- 1 Corinthians 2:14: Spiritual discernment

### 6.1 CHARACTER OF TRUE WISDOM

- a) PURE: Matthew 5:8
- b) PEACEABLE: Romans 12:18
- c) GENTLE: Philippians 4:5
- d) WILLING TO YIELD: Proverbs 12:15
- e) FULL OF MERCY: Luke 6:36
- f) GOOD FRUITS: Matthew 7:16
- g) WITHOUT PARTIALITY: Acts 10:34
- h) WITHOUT HYPOCRISY: Romans 12:9

This is not personality; it is transformation.

*“Heavenly wisdom does not improve the old man, it replaces him.”*

## 7. THE RESULT | JAMES 3:18

### Principle

- Wisdom = seed
- Peace = soil
- Righteousness = fruit

Galatians 6:7 You reap what you sow

### Outcome

- Righteous living
- Peaceful relationships
- Christlike life

*“Your life is the harvest of the wisdom you follow.”*

**CONCLUSION: ETERNITY WILL EXPOSE YOUR WISDOM | DANIEL 12:3**

True wisdom:

- produces righteousness
- leads others to righteousness
- shines in eternity

Final Warning

You can:

- speak truth
- serve faithfully
- appear spiritual

And still be governed by earthly wisdom.

*"In eternity, it will not matter how wise you sounded; it will matter whether your life proved it."*

**ACTION STEPS**

1. Examine your heart daily (motives, desires)
2. Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5)
3. Control your speech (James 3)
4. Pursue humility (Philippians 2:3)
5. Walk in repentance regularly
6. Seek to produce righteousness, not recognition
7. Be a peacemaker intentionally

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Prayer for True Wisdom:** “Lord, give me wisdom from above, not from myself.”
- 2. Prayer for a Pure Heart:** “Search me, cleanse me, remove hidden motives.”
- 3. Prayer Against Envy & Pride:** “Crucify every self-seeking desire in me.”
- 4. Prayer for Transformation:** “Let my life reflect Your character, not my flesh.”
- 5. Prayer for Eternal Focus:** “Help me live in light of eternity, not temporary approval.”