



Above or Below (James 3:13-18)

Wisdom Personified

“Who is **wise and understanding** among you? Let him show by **good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom**. But if you have **bitter envy** and **self-seeking** in your hearts, **do not boast** and **lie against the truth**. **This wisdom** does not descend from above, but is **earthly, sensual, demonic**. For **where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there**. But the **wisdom that is from above** is first **pure**, then **peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy**. Now the **fruit of righteousness** is **sown in peace** by those who make peace.” James 3:13-18 NKJV

James 3:13-18

☑ “Who is **wise and understanding** among you? Let him show by **good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom**.” James 3:13 NKJV

☑ Wisdom and Understanding

- ☑ Wisdom & Understanding: as we launch into this study, we would do well to define terms. And there is no better way to do a Bible study than to use the Bible to define those terms. Wisdom is the godly application of understanding.
- ☑ Wisdom is the principal thing...Why? If you understand something (truth) and you do not apply it, it is useless.
- ☑ **“Get wisdom! Get understanding!** Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. **Wisdom is the principal thing;** Therefore **get wisdom.** And **in all your getting, get understanding.**” Proverbs 4:5-7 NKJV
- ☑ What is Wisdom? Take a step back in Proverbs 4 and catch this nuance.
- ☑ **“Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;** For I give you **good doctrine: Do not forsake my law.** When I was my father’s son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, He also taught me, and said to me: **“Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.”** Proverbs 4:1-4 NKJV

- ☑ Give attention to understanding. The understanding is found in good doctrine. Good doctrine is found in the laws of God; your heart must retain this understanding and your life must exemplify obedience as proof. You must do what you know to do, not just know to do it! This will give you life!
- ☑ See: [The Coin has Two Sides](#) & [The Great Paradox](#)
- ☑ Wisdom is not a thing; it is a person! By wisdom and understanding...
- ☑ **“The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens;** By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew.” Proverbs 3:19-20 NKJV
- ☑ **“Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice?** She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, Beside the way, where the paths meet. ...Listen, for **I will speak of excellent things,** And from the opening of **my lips will come right things;** For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them. Proverbs 8:1-2, 6-8 NKJV

- ☑ Who is this wisdom? The Master craftsman through whom all things were created!
- ☑ **““The Lord possessed me at the beginning** of His way, Before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, **From the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth,** When there were no fountains abounding with water. **Before the mountains** were settled, **Before the hills,** I was brought forth; **While as yet He had not made the earth** or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep, When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep, When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth, **Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman;** And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him,”
Proverbs 8:22-30 NKJV
- ☑ Through Christ all things were created—He must therefore be the personification of wisdom!

- ☑ “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth**, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him.** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” Colossians 1:15-17 NKJV

- ☑ **The Spirit of Wisdom**

- ☑ Paul prays for us to get the Spirit of Wisdom! How will that happen? By revelation you will get understanding through an enlightened heart. Then you must apply it! How?

- ☑ “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the **spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge** of Him, **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened**; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of **His power toward us** who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from

the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,” Ephesians 1:17-20 NKJV

Good Conduct

- You apply it by the life you live!

Works

- Let’s equate the faith that saves you with understanding and the wisdom of applying that understanding as WORKS...The fruit or evidence that you have gained wisdom! See: [The Great Paradox](#)

- “For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV

The Meekness of Wisdom

- Meekness: Total and absolute power under control!
- “**Blessed are the meek**, For they shall inherit the earth.”
Matthew 5:5 NKJV
- “But Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come?”
Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the

servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. But Jesus said to him, **“Put your sword in its place,** for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or **do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?”**

Matthew 26:50-53 NKJV

☑ *“But if you have **bitter envy** and **self-seeking** in your hearts, **do not boast and lie against the truth.**” James 3:14 NKJV*

☑ **Bitter Envy**

☑ Bitterness: anger, hurt, resentful

☑ Envy: a feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else’s possessions or qualities.

Desire to have a quality, possession, or other desirable attribute belonging to (someone else).

☑ **Self-seeking**

☑ If Y’shua is wisdom, then what self-seeking comes down to is that you want what is His...

☑ John got it right...he did not seek his own! *“He must increase; I must decrease!”*

☑ “John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. **He must increase, but I must decrease.**” John 3:27, 30 NKJV

- Love does not seek its own!** “does not behave rudely, **does not seek its own**, is not provoked, thinks no evil;” I Corinthians 13:5 NKJV
- Do Not Boast and Lie against the Truth**
 - Hijacking what belongs to God.
 - ““How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘**I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God; **I will** also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High.**’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.” Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJV
 - If I am going to boast—boast in the TRUTH
 - “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6 NKJV
 - If you are going to boast...
 - “I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. **My soul shall make its boast in the Lord;** The humble shall hear of it and be

glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together." Psalms 34:1-3 NKJV

☑ "But **God forbid that I should boast except in the cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Galatians 6:14 NKJV

☑ Christ is the wisdom and from God and righteousness!

☑ "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, **who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness** and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, "**He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.**" I Corinthians 1:30-31 NKJV

☑ "***This wisdom*** does not descend from above, but is **earthly, sensual, demonic.**" James 3:15 NKJV

☑ **This Wisdom...**

☑ ...**bitter envy** and **self-seeking** in your hearts, **do not boast** and **lie against the truth...**

☑ **The Earthly...**

☑ The Spirit of Man is the spirit of the earth!

☑ "For what man knows the things of a man except **the spirit of the man** which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **Now we have**

received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” I Corinthians 2:11-12 NKJV

☑ **The Sensual...**

☑ Physically gratifying, the carnal nature!

☑ “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who **do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **For to be carnally minded is death,** but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God;** for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” Romans 8:4-7 NKJV

☑ The carnal mind, the sensual mind is hatred against God. It is not even capable of loving the law of God

☑ **Demonic**

☑ The carnal nature is from the demonic realm. It inspires one to place himself at God’s right hand like Isaiah says of Satan.

☑ *“For where **envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing** are there.” James 3:16 NKJV*

☑ **Envy and self-seeking cause...**

☑ Confusion: the war that self-seeking causes. Your new man in the Spirit of God serves the law of God. The carnal self-seeking man serves his own flesh!

☑ **“For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind,** and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7:22-25 NKJV

☑ Confusion: the flesh vs. the Spirit

☑ **“There is therefore now no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. **For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh,** God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account

of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,” Romans 8:1-3
NKJV

☑ Every Evil Thing: you can never please God when you are living in the sensual!

☑ “So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” Romans 8:8 NKJV

☑ *“But the **wisdom that is from above** is first **pure**, then **peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.**” James 3:17*
NKJV

☑ **Wisdom from above...**

☑ Pure: Unmixed, untainted, separate, undefiled.

☑ “Blessed are the **pure in heart**, For they shall see God.”
Matthew 5:8 NKJV

☑ Wisdom is Peaceable: One who brings wisdom and understanding into every situation instead of self-seeking.

☑ “**Blessed are the peacemakers**, For they shall be called sons of God.” Matthew 5:9 NKJV

☑ “If it is possible, as much **as depends on you, live peaceably** with all men.” Romans 12:18 NKJV

☑ Wisdom is Gentle: having or showing a mild, kind, or tender temperament or character.

- “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for **I am gentle** and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**” Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV
- Wisdom is Willing to yield: Surrender...you do not need to be right; willing to surrender your own rights for the benefit of another.
- “saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless **not My will, but Yours, be done.**” Luke 22:42 NKJV
- Wisdom is Full of Mercy: willing to bear the burdens on another’s mistakes, instead of making them pay!
- “But go and learn what this means: **‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’** For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” Matthew 9:13 NKJV
- Wisdom is Full of good fruits (See: [The Great Paradox](#)): fruit is the evidence that is apparent in your life if you are connected to the the root of Christ! If you are not pure, He will prune you! (See: John 15:1-8)
- “**Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit** He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit **He prunes**, that it may bear more fruit.” John 15:2 NKJV

- ☑ ““I am the vine, you are the branches. **He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5 NKJV
- ☑ “Even so, **every good tree bears good fruit**, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” Matthew 7:17-20 NKJV
- ☑ Wisdom is Without partiality: Do not favor one person over another. Endeavor to see each person the way God sees them! See: [Star-Struck](#)
- ☑ “My brethren, **do not hold the faith** of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, **with partiality**.” James 2:1 NKJV
- ☑ Without hypocrisy: be who you say you are. That is integrity. And holistic integrity is Godliness. Godliness is when your spirit, soul and body are in complete alignment with God.
- ☑ ““But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you **shut up the kingdom of heaven** against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.” Matthew 23:13 NKJV

- ““Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** For you travel land and sea to **win one proselyte**, and when he is won, **you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.**” Matthew 23:15 NKJV

- “Now the **fruit of righteousness** is sown in **peace** by **those who make peace.**” James 3:18 NKJV

- The Fruit of Righteousness**
- Righteousness is not only a gift, it is also a fruit. It is something at the end of your branch to be sown...

- Sown in Peace**
- Those who MAKE peace: The power to arbitrate. One who brings wisdom and understanding into every situation instead of self-seeking. Do you inflame a situation or do you bring calm! When you are a calming spirit you sow the fruit of righteousness.
- Abide in Christ and you will bear much fruit. And then plant the fruit of righteousness!
- ““I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that **does not bear fruit** He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may **bear more fruit.** You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **Abide in Me**, and

I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **“I am the vine, you are the branches.** He who abides in Me, and I in him, **bears much fruit;** for without Me you can do nothing.” John 15:1-5 NKJV

- ☑ You are to plant the seeds of peace, even to your own detriment...
- ☑ “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.** He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me;** and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” John 12:24-26 NKJV

NEXT TEACHING

Show Me Your Friends and
I'll Show You Your Future (James 4:1-10)