

**Agape House of Worship  
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Book Study: Epistle of James  
Part 7 - James 3:13-18: Reacting with Wisdom**

**Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022  
Facilitator: Pastor Jide Lawore**

| Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James |                                        |                                      |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Date                                        | Key Texts                              | Topic                                |
| 10/12/2022                                  | Part 1 - Overview of the Book of James | Overview of the Book of James        |
| 10/19/2022                                  | Part 2 - James 1:1-18                  | Responding to Suffering and Trials   |
| 10/26/2022                                  | Part 3 - James 1:19-27                 | Listening, Doing and Speaking        |
| 11/2/2022                                   | Part 4 - James 2:1-12                  | Warning Against Favoritism           |
| 11/9/2022                                   | Part 5 - James 2:14-26                 | Relationship Between Faith and Works |
| 11/16/2022                                  | Part 6 - James 3:1-12                  | Taming the Tongue                    |
| 11/23/2022                                  | Part 7 - James 3:13-18                 | Reacting with Wisdom                 |
| 11/30/2022                                  | Part 8 - James 4:1-12                  | Submitting Yourself to God           |
| 12/7/2022                                   | Part 9 - James 4:13 - 5:6              | Warning Against Boastfulness         |
| 12/14/2022                                  | Part 10 - James 5:7-20                 | Patience and Prayer                  |

### Introduction

Last week we looked at the first twelve verses of James chapter 3, where we learned about the power of our tongue and the need to control it. We learned about how powerful our tongue is despite its physical smallness. Our tongue has the power to control our lives (and our destinies) both positively and negatively. Today we will continue the same chapter as James now takes on the subject of wisdom, specifically as it relates to how we live our lives.

**James 3:13-18 (NKJV)** *“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 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. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”*

**James 3:13-18 (NLT)** *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. 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. 15 For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. 16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. 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 the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. 18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.”*

**What do attributes like good conduct, meekness, mercy etc. have to do with wisdom of God?**  
**What do attributes like envy, self-seeking exist, confusion etc. have to do with worldly wisdom?**

### Other Corroborating Scriptures

James is not alone in dealing with this subject of wisdom; Apostle Paul also spends some time on this subject. Let’s look at some of the passages.

**Ephesians 5:15-16** *“So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.”*

**Colossians 4:5-6** *“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

- Our lives as believers should be seen as a reflection or demonstration of God’s wisdom to the world.
- God’s wisdom is shown through godly conduct while worldly wisdom is shown by ungodly conduct.

***What is wisdom? What is the wisdom of God?***

- Read, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
  - Read, Matthew 7:24
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### **The Two (Or three) Kinds of Wisdom**

James describes the two sources of wisdom that one can demonstrate. This passage is parallel to Paul’s writing in 1 Corinthians 2:6-12. Here Paul dives is into three; the wisdom of God, the wisdom of this age (earthly wisdom), and the wisdom of the rulers of this age (demonic wisdom).

**1 Corinthians 2:6-10 (NKJV)** *“However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

**The wisdom not from above (earthly, unspiritual, and demonic)** – Apostle Paul calls this the wisdom of this world or of the rulers of this world. Here are the characteristics of this wisdom:

1. Unspiritual – promotes flesh.
2. Sensual - Promotes gratification of the senses and physical pleasure
3. Demonic – attracts demonic activities
4. Promotes envy and bitterness
5. Self-seeking
6. Brings confusion
7. Promotes every evil thing
8. Coming to nothing

**The wisdom from above wisdom** - Apostle Paul simply calls this the wisdom of God. Here are the characteristics of this wisdom:

1. Pure – promotes purity.
2. Peaceable – promotes peace
3. Gentle
4. Willing to yield
5. Full of mercy
6. Full of good fruits
7. Without partiality
8. Without hypocrisy