

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 raise a harvest of righteousness. James 3:17-18 (NIV)

A Greater Victory

What do you think real wisdom that comes from me looks like? I'm not sure. **I think you have a pretty good idea. Tell me what you once thought real wisdom looked like?** What I once thought is now a little embarrassing to say out loud. **Go ahead anyhow.** I once thought that wisdom would empower me to win every argument and confound my opponents in every debate. The wisdom I wanted would leave my opponents speechless with nothing to say except that I was completely correct. That's pretty funny, isn't it? **I suppose so. I would have used the word pathetic instead of funny. What does that wisdom sound like to you now?** It sounds a lot more like pride than wisdom. **Yes, it does.**

What have you learned about your desire to win every argument and debate? The desire to win is not wise. I could win every argument and debate and have no one that would want to be my friend. That kind of wisdom is very unattractive and unappealing. Who wants to be around someone that is always right?

Your wisdom is just the opposite. **How so?** Your wisdom is filled with humility. It doesn't overpower or force itself on anyone. It is gentle and attractive and appealing. It stands out as dramatically different than the wisdom of the world. **Yes, it does.** Your wisdom goes out of its way to be helpful to others. It does not serve itself. **No, it does not.** Instead of always wanting to win, your wisdom is willing to suffer wrong. **Why is that?** You are more interested in winning the hearts of men and women than you are in winning the popular arguments of the day. **Yes, I am. Have you ever won arguments and lost people?** Yes, I have. Now I know that I would rather love and serve people than conquer them with my wise debating skills.

I now know that your wisdom sows peace in this world. **Why is that?** The goal of your wisdom isn't to win as the world considers winning. **No, it is not.** Your wisdom seeks a greater victory. **Yes, it does. Tell me what is that victory?** You desire a harvest of righteousness. **Yes, I do.** Your wisdom is meant to draw men and women to you so that they will follow you as their Savior and Lord. **Yes, that is the goal of my wisdom. Is this the kind of wisdom you desire?** Yes Lord, it is. **Will you allow me to use you to plant and reap a harvest of righteousness in this world?** Yes Lord, I will.

Heavenly Father, I have tried to live by the wisdom that comes from this world long enough. It doesn't help and makes matters worse. I ask for your wisdom that comes from heaven, to guide all my thoughts, words, and actions. Amen

Wisdom *Comes From Heaven*

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 raise a harvest of righteousness.

NIV James 3:17-18

Wisdom *From Above*

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

ESV James 3:17-18

Wisdom *From Above*

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

NLT James 3:17-18

Wisdom *From Above*

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.

NKJV James 3:17-18

Wisdom *From Above*

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

NRSV James 3:17-18

Wisdom *God's Wisdom*

Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

MSG James 3:17-18

Wisdom *From Above*

But the wisdom from above is first of all pure (undefiled); then it is peace-loving, courteous (considerate, gentle). [It is willing to] yield to reason, full of compassion and good fruits; it is wholehearted and straightforward, impartial and unfeigned (free from doubts, wavering, and insincerity). And the harvest of righteousness (of conformity to God's will in thought and deed) is [the fruit of the seed] sown in peace by those who work for and make peace [in themselves and in others, that peace which means concord, agreement, and harmony between individuals, with undisturbedness, in a peaceful mind free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].

AMP James 3:17-18

Wisdom *Comes From Heaven*

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure and full of quiet gentleness. Then it is peace-loving and courteous. It allows discussion and is willing to yield to others; it is full of mercy and good deeds. It is wholehearted and straightforward and sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.

TLB James 3:17-18

Wisdom *From Above*

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

NASB James 3:17-18

Wisdom *Comes From God*

But the wisdom that comes from God is first of all pure, then peaceful, gentle, and easy to please. This wisdom is always ready to help those who are troubled and to do good for others. It is always fair and honest. People who work for peace in a peaceful way plant a good crop of right-living.

NCV James 3:17-18

Comes From Heaven

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Wisdom – James 3:17-18

In Context: Read James 3

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: *(What is God speaking to your heart?)*

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 raise a harvest of righteousness. James 3:17-18

Considering The Words: *(What words speak to your heart?)*

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 | raise a harvest | of righteousness. James 3:17-18

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Heavenly Father, I have tried to live by the wisdom that comes from this world long enough. It doesn’t help and makes matters worse. I ask for your wisdom that comes from heaven, to guide all my thoughts, words, and actions. Amen

What It Means: *(What questions speak to your heart?)* (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

What is impure about worldly wisdom and pure about heavenly wisdom?

When has wisdom from heaven caused you to seek peace in your relationships with others?

How has wisdom from heaven made you considerate of the needs and feelings of others?

When has wisdom from heaven led you to be full of mercy in your attitude toward others?

How has receiving heavenly wisdom from God made you able to bear fruit for Him?

When has wisdom from heaven helped you to act sincerely and impartially in your dealings with others?

How might you go about sowing peace in a troubled relationship with another person?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Whenever you face difficult people and troubling circumstances ask your Heavenly Father to give you His wisdom.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that your Heavenly Father will generously give you wisdom from heaven when you ask Him for it.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how heavenly wisdom has born peace and fruit in your life.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May your life be filled with the wisdom that comes from God so you will be able to bear fruit for His kingdom.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, fill me with your wisdom so that I will be able to bear fruit for your kingdom.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will your wisdom make me able to bear fruit for your kingdom today?
