

STRAIGHT TALK

Part 9

Sources of Wisdom are Obvious

James 3:13-18

Our **SOURCE** of Wisdom is revealed by our **CONDUCT** vs. 13

Wisdom is ‘the **SKILL** of carrying **KNOWLEDGE** into real life’

Wisdom is verified by our **WORKS** and by our **ATTITUDES**

There are **TWO** sources of wisdom vs. 14-17

Source one: **EARTHLY** Wisdom vs. 14-16

Rooted in **SELF, CULTURE, ANIMISM, DEMONIC** forces

Exhibited by: **TOXIC** emotional heat, **SELF**-interest,
uttering **UNTRUTHS**

Visible evidences: **INSTABILITY, WICKED** deeds

Source two: **HEAVENLY** Wisdom vs. 17

Rooted in **PURITY**

Exhibited by **SALUTARY**, forbearance, **PERSUADABLE**,
compassion, no favoritism, **AUTHENTICITY**

Visible evidences; **PEACEFUL PEACEMAKING**

Both sources are **SOWING** toward a **HARVEST** vs. 18

Auburn Grace Community Church – March 9th, 2025

Life Group Discussion Questions – March 9, 2025

James 3:17-18 *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)*

DISCOVER (read James 3:13-18)

1. How would an unbeliever define “wisdom?” Without naming names, share about someone who has been a wise and understanding person in your life. When did you first notice they were different in this way?
2. How would others know if you are wise since wisdom is an invisible character quality? Do you consider yourself to be wise, yet not fully living it out? Explain.
3. Isn't someone considered wise who is successful because of their “business savvy”? How can there be two different sets of wisdom? Can there be two almost opposite courses of action that are both wise? Where does worldly wisdom come from? Is it really wisdom? If not, what is it?
4. In what typical ways are believers prone to follow the wisdom of their culture? Share of a time when you were not available to Godly counsel. What was the result?

EXPLORE

1. Read James 3:17 again. In what way does this verse portray the characteristics of wisdom when it looks like it could just be on a list of Christian virtues? Why is it necessary that “purity” leads the list of attributes?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Explain verse 21. What does it mean “in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom”? Who is verse 26 talking about when it says, “For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.”?
3. Who is skilled at carrying knowledge into real life for the best outcome possible? What is meant by the best outcome possible? How can we observe outcomes of heavenly wisdom?
4. Pastor Phil taught us that there are two sources of wisdom, earthly and heavenly wisdom. Discuss what each type wisdom is rooted in. What are the evidences of each one?
5. Can a 13 year old believer be wiser than an 80 year old professor in a secular university? Can that same 13 year old believer also be wiser than an 80 year old lay leader in the church? In what ways? Discuss how age impacts both heavenly and earthly wisdom?
6. What does a “harvest of righteousness” look like? What would the world observe?

EXPERIENCE

1. In what ways is “earthly wisdom” hurting you today? Think about lingering results from previous poor choices. What can you do today to short-circuit these effects?
2. What areas of your life need more heavenly wisdom? How will you cultivate that?
3. How willing are you to listen to reason from fellow believers? Which are you more likely to do, debate or consider the other person might be right? How might we know if the counsel of another is heavenly?

PRAY

Father in heaven, thank You that You sent us Jesus, the very personification of heavenly wisdom on earth. Thank You also for Your forbearance as we learn, with difficulty at times, that wisdom is not merely head knowledge, but participating with Your indwelling Spirit with all humility of heart. May the words of my mouth and the actions of my hands and feet please You and bring Your grace to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.