

The BOOK of JAMES

WHAT VIBRANT *faith* LOOKS LIKE

Key Scriptures

James 3

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 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. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Wisdom

James 3:13-18 shows us that when we experience the life-change of God living inside of us, we can have wisdom from heaven, even in the midst of chaos. Let's reject the world's way of looking for solutions, prepare our hearts to receive wisdom from heaven, and become peacemakers both in our lives and in the world around us.

Think about it.

The three main points from last weekend's sermon:

- **The wise have a pure heart and love peace.** First, we must consider what might be contaminating our hearts so that we can take steps to purify them. A pure heart will allow us to be wise in all other areas. Then, we need to adopt a peace-loving spirit. Conflict cannot continue without our participation.
- **The wise consider others and are willing to yield.** Let's consider other people's views and be open to discussion when forming our opinions.
- **The wise minimize the mistakes of others and are authentic.** We need to extend mercy rather than judge others. We also need to practice authenticity by allowing people to know who we really are.

Share your insight.

1. What contaminates your heart? Discuss areas in your life that need to be “cleaned out,” so that you can have a pure heart.
2. What do you need to stop bringing up? Discuss how showing mercy towards others can bring peace to your life and relationships.
3. What do you tend to hide from others? If you need some time to think about it and would rather discuss this one-on-one rather than in the group, be sure to reach out to a friend to talk through your answer to this question this week.

Pray for one another.

- “WE CAN GET WISDOM FROM HEAVEN THAT WE CAN NEVER GET ON OUR OWN.”
- Ask God for wisdom in an area you need it the most this week.
- Pray this corporately:
God, we surrender our hearts and minds to You and ask for Your wisdom. We need supernatural help to be wise in the chaos of today's world. Help us to be peacemakers and do our part to heal our land!