



“Drawing From the Well”
“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship

JAMES 3:13-18

Lesson 9

“We’re prone to want God to change our circumstances, but He wants to change our character. We think that peace comes from the outside in, when in reality it comes from the inside out. Our hearts carry in them their own war or peace, depending on who is in control, Christ or self. Jesus brings peace because He is peace. The more we become like Him, the more we experience His peace and can share it with others.” Warren Wiersbe

DAY ONE: James 3:13-18

1. Prayerfully read **James 3:1-18**. **James 3:13-18** is one paragraph. Record the words or phrases from each verse of this week’s study that are especially significant to you:
 - a. **James 3:13**
 - b. **James 3:14**
 - c. **James 3:15**
 - d. **James 3:16**
 - e. **James 3:17**
 - f. **James 3:18**
2. James moves from addressing the power and use of the tongue to another subject that reflects the walk of a mature Christian. He begins **verse 13** with a question. What is this question?
 - a. Define *wisdom* (#4678)
3. How valuable is godly wisdom according to **Proverbs 8:11**?
4. What do the following verses teach about the requirements for godly wisdom?
 - a. **Proverbs 2:4-5** (*her refers to wisdom*)
 - b. **Proverbs 4:5-7**
 - c. **Proverbs 9:10**
 - d. Fear of the Lord is not being frightened of Him. It is to have a deep reverence for Him, an awe of Who He is and What He is. According to the following verse what will result from reverencing the Lord?
 - 1) **Proverbs 8:13**

2) **Proverbs 16:6**

Challenge: Read **Matthew 25:1-13** and contrast the wise and foolish virgins.

5. Let's look at how the principle of **James 3:13** relates to women of all ages and stages:
- a. What wisdom does **1 Peter 3:1-4** give as a pattern of behavior for a wise Christian wife?
 - 1) How will a husband who does not obey the Word be won to Christ according to **verse 1**?
 - 2) What adorning or ornament is of great value in the sight of God?
 - b. Read **Titus 2:3-5**. How will the wise older woman behave?
 - 1) How should the wise younger woman behave?
 - c. What does **1 Corinthians 7:34** say about the wise single woman's way of living?
 - d. What does **1 Timothy 5:9-10** reveal about the wise widows behavior?
6. Look up the definition for the word **Meekness** (#4240) and record your findings here:
- a. Look up the following verses and identify those described as meek:
 - 1) **Numbers 12:3**
 - 2) **Matthew 11:29**
 - 3) **2 Corinthians 10:1**
 - b. Find a verse that addresses the subject of **meekness** and show how it speaks to you about the importance of **meekness** in your life.

*“Through skillful and godly wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built,
And by understanding it is established (on a sound and good foundation).”
Proverbs 24:3 AMP*

DAY TWO: James 3:14-16

1. Prayerfully read **James 3:14-16**. Use your study tools to look up the following definitions:
 - a. **Bitter** (#4089)
 - b. **Envy** (#2205)

- c. **Self-seeking – Strife** NKJ (#2052)
- d. **Glory** (#2620)
- e. How can harboring bitter envy and strife in our hearts result in a wisdom that *descends not from above*?
- f. According to the following scriptures, what are we to do with feelings of envy and strife and what is the antidote for those feelings?
 - 1) **Philippians 2:3**
 - 2) **1 Peter 2:1-2**

- 2. If bitter envying and strife are in our hearts, what two things are we not to do according to **James 3:14b**?
 - a. *Envying and strife* can cause one to *glory*, which is rendered in the Greek to *promote oneself at the expense of others*. They can cause one to be self-deceived. What is the result of being deceived according to **Romans 1:22**?
 - b. How does *envy* and *strife* affect the unity of the body of Christ?

Personal: Is there anyone you are envying or striving against today? If so, take it to the Lord in prayer. Don't allow the enemy a foothold in your heart. Fix your eyes upon Jesus!

- 3. Wisdom that is expressed through bitter envying and strife descends not from above. A good barometer to identify the kind of wisdom manifested would be to determine its source. What three types of wisdom does James identify in **verse 15**? Use your study tools and look up the definitions for the following:
 - a. **Earthly** (#1919)
 - 1) The source and standards of this kind of wisdom are from the world and not God. Its teachers are self-centered and shallow. Read **1 Corinthians 1:20-21** and define in your own words earthly wisdom.
 - b. **Sensual** (#5591)
 - 1) This kind of wisdom is based on human feelings and human reason alone without seeking God as described in **1 Corinthians 2:14**. What are the characteristics of the carnal or immature Christian according to **1 Corinthians 3:3**?

c. **Demonic** (#1141)

- 1) This kind of wisdom is inspired by evil forces, not by God, the Giver of true wisdom. From **Genesis 3:1b** what is one of the tactics of devilish wisdom?

4. The results of *earthly, sensual and demonic* wisdom are *envy* and *self-seeking*. According to **James 3:16** what is present in our lives when we think we are wise, and become envious and self-seeking? *Selah!*

5. Who does **1 Corinthians 14:33** say the *author of confusion* is **not**?

6. What kind of evil resulted from the envy of the religious men of Jesus' day according to **Mark 15:10**?

7. From your study so far in James, what conclusion can you draw about any situation in which there is envy and strife involved?
 - a. **Be alert!** This can happen to any one of us. **James 3:15** helps us recognize the source, but what safeguards are we to use to prevent this from happening when bitter envying and strife begin to creep in?

DAY THREE: James 3:17

1. Prayerfully read **James 3:13-18** and give special attention to **James 3:17**. James describes a wisdom that is diametrically opposed to the wisdom defined in **James 3:14-16**. Where does the wisdom described in **verse 17** come from?

2. James lists the main characteristic of *wisdom that is from above* in **verse 17**. What is it?
 - a. How does the contamination of envy and strife keep us from walking in godly wisdom?

3. In the chart below, list all eight definitions of the traits of *true wisdom* in one column and their opposites in the other column.

True Wisdom - Definition	False Wisdom – Your own words
1. <i>Pure</i> #53	1. Example: Defiled
2. <i>Peaceable</i> #1516	2.
3. <i>Gentle</i> #1933	3.

4. <i>Willing to Yield</i> #2138	4.
5. <i>Mercy</i> #1656	5.
6. <i>Fruit</i> #2590	6.
7. <i>Without Partiality</i> #87	7.
8. <i>Without Hypocrisy</i> #505	8.

4. **Purity is of utmost importance in a believer's life.** James lists this characteristic first. Look up the following verses that have to do with purity and record your findings. Highlight one or two that speak to your heart and share with your group.
- Matthew 5:8**
 - 2 Corinthians 7:1**
 - 1 Timothy 1:5**
 - 1 Peter 1:16**
 - 1 Peter 1:22**
5. How will meditating on the things Paul lists in **Philippians 4:8** help us to walk in pure wisdom? Write out this scripture here:
- What are some practical ways we can apply **Philippians 4:8**?

*“The Holy Spirit reveals truth to us from the Word,
and then gives us the wisdom to understand and apply it.
He also gives us the power – the enablement –
to practice the truth (Ephesians 3:14-21).” Warren Wiersbe*

DAY FOUR: James 3:18

- Read **James 3:18**. Compare the end result of true wisdom in **James 3:18** to the end result of false wisdom in **James 3:16**.

- a. What is the effect of true wisdom?
 - b. How is the fruit of righteousness sown according to **verse 18**?
 - c. Record what the following verses say about this:
 - 1) **Hosea 10:12**
 - 2) **Philippians 1:11**
 - 3) **James 1:20**
2. Read **Galatians 6:7-9**. From the principle of **verse 7** what kind of crop will you reap if you walk in ungodly wisdom?
- a. What encouragement is offered for well doing in **Verse 9**?
3. If the world we lived in operated in true Godly wisdom, it would be a world of righteousness, a world for which God longs. How can we ever have such a world? Only by the teachers of God—ministers and laymen alike—becoming teachers of *true* wisdom, teachers who make peace and who lead people to make peace with God and with each other. Look up the following verses and record what they have to say about peace. Highlight one or two that minister to your heart and share with your group.
- a. **Psalms 34:14b**
 - b. **Proverbs 12:20b**
 - c. **John 14:27**
 - d. **John 16:33**
 - e. **Romans 14:17**
 - f. **1 Corinthians 15:54**
 - g. **Ephesians 2:13-14**
 - h. **Colossians 1:20**
 - i. **Colossians 3:15**

“Life is full of disturbances. Without are fighting’s, within are fears. There is no peace. A dozen open doors beckon us to some kind of peace – escape, entertainment, alcohol, sex, drugs, hard work – and we run from one door to another hoping to find peace. What we need is Jesus; for His name is Prince of Peace, and that takes care of all the disturbances this life has to offer.” Warren Wiersbe

DAY FIVE: Review of James 1-3

1. The first chapter of James deals with two types of Temptations: *temptations* that come from without and temptations that come from within. This first portion of the chapter pertains to temptations that come from outside sources. The word temptation as it is used here does not mean seduction to sin. It is used of trials or testings with a beneficial purpose and effect; trials divinely permitted or sent. From **James 1:2** how are we to count, consider or view trials?
2. According to **James 1:3-4**, what is the purpose of trials?
 - a. Recall how a trial in your life had this effect.
3. When a trial comes we need wisdom. We need to know what to say and what to do. We are not to lean on our own understanding (**Proverbs 3:5-6**). What did you learn about wisdom in **James 1:5-8**?
4. The second type of temptation dealt with in James is the temptation that comes from within. This kind of temptation can be described as a solicitation to evil. What does **James 1:13-18** tell us about this kind of temptation?
 - a. How would putting **2 Corinthians 10:5** to application put a stop to the downward spiral of a temptation?
5. **James 1:22** is the heart of James. We cannot be doers of the Word in our own strength. According to the following scriptures, what enables us to walk rightly?
 - a. **Psalms 119:11**
 - b. **Acts 1:8a**
6. **James 2:1-13** deals with how we are to treat people in the different strata of society. James was addressing Christians who were favoring the rich and despising the poor, a problem that is still relevant in the church today. What example does James use to present the problem of being a respecter of persons?
7. Some view James teaching in **James 2:14-26** as contradictory to Paul’s teachings on faith versus works. What have you learned from **James 2:14-26** about the fact that genuine faith will be shown by works?

8. In **James 3:1-12** James describes two characteristics of the perfect or mature Christian in the first two chapters. A mature Christian is patient in trials and his faith is displayed through good works. In this section, we discover the third characteristic of the mature believer: he has power over his tongue. Record the analogies that James uses to describe the tongue and how they help you to understand its power.
- a. The tongue has power both to wound and to heal. List some verses that reveal the destructive or the constructive power of the tongue.
9. In the first chapter of James we looked at the two different types of temptation that are defined for us – temptation from above (trials from without), and temptation not from above (trials from within). In this portion of **chapter 3**, James deals with the two sources of wisdom – How does James define these two types of wisdom?
- a. Further your understanding of the qualities of wisdom by recording a definition, in your own words, for each of the following:
- 1) ***Pure***
 - 2) ***Peaceable***
 - 3) ***Gentle***
 - 4) ***Easy to be entreated***
 - 5) ***Full of mercy***
 - 6) ***Full of good fruits***
 - 7) ***Without partiality***
 - 8) ***Without hypocrisy***
- 9) Choose one of these qualities of godly wisdom that you most desire to be worked into your life. Share why you chose it and make it your prayer today!

***“I want to be a doer, Lord
In trials and all that comes my way
To treat all people equally
And to guard everything I say
May I walk in godly wisdom
That reflect our heart of love
And may I always, always know ~
Power to do comes from above.”***

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