

October 2, 2016

James - Faith That Works

Wise Guy Huh?

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James 3:13-18

Wisdom isn't just something you **know, it's something you **do**.**

Matt 7:24

Wisdom **suffers when self is the focus.**

Gal 5:19-21 Matt 6:3

Wisdom is best expressed in how you **treat others.**

Earthly Wisdom vs. Godly Wisdom

Godly wisdom is different from worldly wisdom. One is spiritual, the other is not. One is selfish, the other is not. How would you describe Wisdom? How would you describe intelligence?

Read Ecclesiastes 1:17

We all have a desire to be wise. We like to understand how things work, to be able to answer questions, to make decisions, and to share what we know. We seek and search out wisdom and knowledge of the things of this world. Think of the Wisest person you know. What are they like? What characteristics would a wise person possess according to USA Today?

Read 1 Kings 3:1-12

What kind of a king would ask only for wisdom?

Think of some major world leaders today. If God gave them the same opportunity, what do you think they would ask for?

If you had been king, what would you have asked for and why?

At some point in his life, Solomon grew to love God's blessings more than God Himself. His life began to revolve around his wealth, pleasure, and adoration. He elevated his earthly wisdom above godly wisdom. Solomon forgot that it is the wisdom of God that answers our every need and gives us true perspective on life's deepest questions.

What causes each of us to be distracted and pulled from wanting Godly wisdom?

Read Jeremiah 17:9; John 20:29; Matthew 5:43-47

Earthly wisdom appeals to the senses and the emotions. In contrast, the wisdom that is from God reflects Him.

What does each of these scriptures tell us about Earthly Wisdom?
What does it say about Godly Wisdom?

Why is so hard to love and bless our enemies?

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. God desires to give His divine wisdom to His children. All other types of learning are valuable but limited unless built upon the knowledge of the Lord Himself. To gain God's wisdom, we must pray for it, while studying and living out God's Word. So many distractions in this world threaten to pull us away from God.

What things distract us from studying God's word?

What are things we can do to keep on the road of living in an environment of God's wisdom as opposed to worldly wisdom?

What are things we can do in our own lives to maintain that our influence is godly?

God's wisdom gives us focus and direction when we have to choose between what looks good, what feels good, and what is good. What can we do to keep our thinking grounded in Godly wisdom?

Does the wisdom that you share and live by reflect more of God or more of this world? In what areas of your life are you prone to wander and stray from God's wisdom? How can we pray for you as you seek to apply God's wisdom in your life?