

How Wisdom Works

James 3:17—4:3



Defining WISDOM

1. It's demonstrated by our conduct (v. 13)
2. What it's NOT: earthly, unspiritual, demonic (vv. 14-16)
3. What it IS: *from ABOVE* (vv. 17-18)

Wisdom NOT from ABOVE

1. Jealousy (Pr. 6:34)
2. Selfish Ambition (Pr. 16:18)
3. Boasting/Arrogance (Pr. 8:13)
4. Earthly & Unspiritual (Pr. 14:12)
5. Demonic (Pr. 27:20)
6. Disorder (Pr. 11:29)

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

1. Pure (Pr. 15:26)
2. Peaceable (Pr. 3:1-2; Eph. 2:14)
3. Gentle (Pr. 16:32)
4. Open to reason (Pr. 14:15)
5. Full of mercy (Pr. 11:7,24-25)
6. Good fruits (Pr. 3:18)
7. Impartial/Unwavering (Pr. 24:16)
8. Sincere (Pr. 28:13)

Pr. 15:26 (ESV)

“The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, but gracious words are pure.”



Pr. 3:1-2 (ESV)

“My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, (2)for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.”



Eph. 2:14 (ESV)

“For He himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility”



Pr. 16:32 (ESV)

“Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”



Pr. 14:15 (ESV)

“The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.”



Pr. 11:7 (NASB)

“A merciful person does himself good, but the cruel person does himself harm.”



Pr. 11:24-25 (ESV)

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

(25)Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”



Pr. 3:18 (ESV)

“She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.”



Pr. 24:16 (ESV)

“for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.”



Pr. 28:13 (ESV)

“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”



Mark 7:20-23 (ESV)

“And He said, ‘What comes out of a person is what defiles him. (21) For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, (22) coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. (23) All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’”



Gal. 5:19-21 (ESV)

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, (21) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”



Gen. 8:21 (ESV)

“... for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth...”

Jer. 17:9 (ESV)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”



Ps. 51:5 (NIV)

“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”



Matt. 7:7-8 (ESV)

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (8) For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”



Matt. 7:9-11 (ESV)

“Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? (10) Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? (11) If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”



Luke 18:1 (ESV)

“And He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.”



Luke 18:2-7 (ESV)

“He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. (3) And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ (4) For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, (5) yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down

Luke 18:2-7 (ESV)

by her continual coming.' (6) And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge says. (7) And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? (8) I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?'"'"



1 John 5:14 (ESV)

“And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.”

