

## DEMONISM WISDOM

James 3:13-18 introduces two spheres of wisdom in the world.

- James calls one sphere of wisdom –“earthly, natural, and demonic (Jas.3:15)
  - **demonic wisdom OR satan’s system**
- He calls the other sphere of wisdom – “wisdom from above (Jas.3:17)
  - **divine wisdom OR God’s system.**

These two spheres of wisdom are in direct conflict with each other in the world.

### **Four aspects of Demonic Wisdom of the world**

#### **1. James describes by ten characteristics of Demonic Wisdom (Jas.3:15).**

James 3:15 list the first one associated with demonic wisdom.

(Jas.3:15a) “This wisdom is not that which comes down (katerchomai/ p.m.ptc.nsf) from above (ouk anothen) (God).

Then he lists three more associated with demonic wisdom.

(Jas 3:15b) “But is earthly (epigeios) (Phil.3:18-19), natural (psuchikos) (1 Cor.2:14; 3:1), **demonic** (daimoniondes) (1 Tim.4:2-3).

- **Earthly**
  - (Phil.3:18-19) “For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.”
- **Natural**
  - (Phil.3:18-19) “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”
- **Demonic**
  - (1 Cor.2:14; 3:1) “by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.”

#### **2. James shows six additional characteristics of demonic wisdom (Jas.3:14, 16).**

The heart is the bull’s eye target in the Angelic Conflict.

**James gave four characteristics of demonic wisdom**

(Jas.3:14) “But **if** (1<sup>st</sup> class condition “if” = true) you have bitter jealousy (pikros zelos) and selfish ambition (erithia) in your heart [and you do] (te kardia/ lsf), do not be arrogant (me katakauchomai) and lie against the truth (pseudomai tes aletheia).”

**James gave two final characteristics.**

(Jas.3:16) “For where jealousy and selfish ambitious exist, there is disorder (akatastasis) and every evil thing (phaulos pragma).”

### 3. **Demonic wisdom is satan's alternative to divine wisdom in the Angelic Conflict.**

- When an **unbeliever** goes negative to the truth of the Word of God, **demonic wisdom** fills the void with the alternative (Rom.1:18-32; 2 Cor.4:3-4).
- When a **believer** goes negative to the truth of the Word of God **demonic wisdom** fills the void with the alternative (Matt.16:21-23; 2 Tim.1:13-18; 4:9-, 14-18).

**NOTE:** The aim of demonic wisdom is to infiltrate the heart with false doctrines of evil (1 Tim.4:2-3; 2 Tim.2:15-17, 26; 3:13-17; 4:2-5).

### 4. **The key doctrinal issue of today's lesson is the source of your wisdom. It is either demonic or divine!**

Both sides quote the bible (Gen.3:1-7; Acts 15:1-5, 11).

Be on guard against attack upon the six stages of God's Grace of Divine Wisdom (Rom.11:6).

#### **Surpassing Grace:**

(Eph.2:5-8) even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and <sup>le</sup>that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

(2Cor.5:6-8) Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord - for we walk by faith, not by sight - we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

#### **Dying Grace:**

(Phil.1:21-23) For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

#### **Suffering Grace:**

(2 Cor.12:9-10) And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

#### **Spiritual growth Grace:**

(2 Pet.3:18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

#### **Logistic Grace:**

(Phil.4:19) And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

(2 Cor.9:8) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

#### **Saving Grace:**

(Eph.2:8-9) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- The source of our wisdom is the source of our application and production (Divine Good or evil).
- Evil in the heart produces evil behavior (Jas.3:16; Mark 7:20-23; Prov.23:7).