

## DEVINE 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.

Every member of the human race is influenced by one or both of these two spheres of wisdom. James issued a warning to two groups within the Christian Church:

- **The teachers** (Jas.3:1) “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment”.
- **The brethren** (Jas.3:13) “Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom”.

**This lesson will study three aspects of Divine Wisdom or wisdom from above.**

### 1. James described ten characteristics of Divine Wisdom.

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Wisdom from above** (sophia anouthen)
  - New Covenant Divine Wisdom in the completed canon called, The Bible (Jas.3:17-18).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Pure** (hagnos)
  - Without contamination, not compromising word of God with doctrine of demons. (Jas.3:14-16) Demonic wisdom; (1 Tim.4:1-4) Doctrines of demons).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Peaceable** (eirenikos)
  - Conciliatory, internal benefits (Rom.12:18).
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Gentle** (epieikes)
  - Opposite of harsh, equitable, forbearing (1 Tim3:3).
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Reasonable** (eupeithes)
  - Easy to be intreated, ready to obey, flexible in matters of liberty (Rom.14:1, 10, 13/ 14:8, 19).
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Full of Mercy** (mestos eleos)
  - Full not partial forgiving grace attitude (Jas.2:13; Luke 6:36; Eph.4:32).
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Good Fruits** (agathos karpos)
  - Divine Production (Good Works) (2Tim.3:16-17; Gal.5:16, 22-23).
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Unwavering** (adiakristos)
  - Without uncertainty or indecisive or doubtful (Jas.1:8; 4:8).
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Without hypocrisy** (anupokritos)
  - Dissimulation, without partiality or pretense, transparency (Matt.7:1-5).

### 10<sup>th</sup> – Fruit of Righteousness (karpos diakaiosune)

- Conformity to directive will of God, experiential righteousness in the Christian Way of Life.
  - “Sown in peace by those making peace” as opposed to bitter jealousy and strife
  - (Matt.5:6, 10, 20; Jas.3:14-16; Heb.12:11)

## 2. James opens his book by commanding believers who lack Divine Wisdom to pray for it.

(Jas.1:5) “**But if** (1<sup>st</sup> class condition/ true) **any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask** (aiteo/ p.a.impv.3ps) **of God, who gives** (didomi/ p.a.ptc.abl.s.m) **to all generously and without reproach** (oneidizo/ p.a.ptc.ablsm), **and it will be given** (didomi/ f.p.ind.3ps) (1 John 5:14-15) **to him.**” (Jas.1:2-4) (context)

James is probably thinking of King Solomon (1 King 3:5-15).

### A Life Changing Prayer – (Solomon’s prayer)

(1 Kings 3:9) “So give **Your** servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of **Yours**?”

### The Lord’s answer

(1 Kings 3:12) “**Behold**, I have done according to **your** words. **Behold**, I have given **you** a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.”

Solomon applied practical insight of divine wisdom in (1 Kings 3:16-28) (two mothers and babies).

Solomon’ divine wisdom became famous through-out world (1Kings 4:29-34).

(1 Kings 4:34) “Men came from all peoples to hear the (divine) wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.”

## 3. When believers change their source of wisdom, it will change the course of their lives.

Saul of Tarsus, who became the Apostle Paul, is an example of this doctrinal principle (Acts 22:3-21/ 7, 8, 10, 18, 21). Saul of Tarsus went from slaying believers to saving unbelievers.

### What about your life?

(Jas.3:13) “**Who among you is wise and understanding?** Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of (divine) wisdom.”

It is possible for every Church Age Believer to display Divine Wisdom (sophos) [wise] and (epistama) [understanding] by good behavior and divine production every day in Christian Way of Life.

(Ps.51:6) “Behold, You **desire truth in the inner most being**, and in the hidden part You will make me **know wisdom.**”

(Col.3:2) “Set your mind on the **things above, not on the things of the earth.**”

## Divine Wisdom is a life changer

(Prov.2:10)

**For wisdom will enter your heart  
And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul**