

The Wisdom that is from Above

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him **James 1:5**

“if any of you lacks wisdom” - 1st step in gaining wisdom is recognizing are lack. **Luke 1:53** he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty

Example - Solomon - **2 Chronicles 1:7-10** Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this great people of Yours? **1 Kings 4:29 - 34** Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore. Solomon’s wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. **1 Kings 10:1-10** You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard. 8“How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom. -> **Matthew 12:42** - *The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.* -> **1 Corinthians 1:20** *But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,*

What is wisdom - simple definition - Wisdom is the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense, and insight. But, for broader scope, see addendum.

Wisdom to be greatly desired and sought after”

- **Proverbs 3:13-22** How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding.
- **Proverbs 4:5-9** - The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding.
- **Proverbs 8** Wisdom is better than jewels, and all desirable things cannot compare with her
- **Proverbs 1:20-33** Warning to those who reject wisdom
- **Job 28:12-28**

Two kinds of wisdom - **James 3:13-18 (1 Corinthians 1:18-25, 2:6-8)**

vs. 13 - Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. True wisdom evidenced by “manner of life and deeds” and by “gentleness” (or meekness)

The Wisdom of this World - (Origin - Gen. 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise)

vs. 14 - The evidences of worldly wisdom - ***But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth***

- “bitter jealousy” - bitter - harsh, lit. to cut, prick. Jealousy (envy) - zeal - an envious and contentious rivalry
- “selfish ambition” (strife, rivalry) - desire to put one’s self forward

vs. 15 - - The true nature of worldly wisdom - ***This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.***

- **earthly** - it is only conversant about earthly things, and is only suitable to earthly minds (Gill)
- **natural** - sensual - what a natural man, one destitute of the Spirit of God, and without the knowledge of the things of the Spirit, may have; it is what is acquired by the mere strength of nature, and only relates to natural things; and is only agreeable to corrupt nature, or to a natural and unregenerate man (Gill). literally, “animal-like” (JFB)
- **demonic** - devilish - or such as the devil himself has; and which comes from him, and being used, serves only his kingdom and interest (Gill). Demon-like - because full of pride, egotism, malignity, and ambition, which are the works of the devil (Pulpit Commentary)

vs. 16 - The fruit of worldly wisdom ***For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.*** - disorder - confusion - literally, “tumultuous anarchy” (JFB). Everything is unsettled and agitated. (Banes); every evil work

vs. 17 - The nature of godly wisdom - ***But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy***

- **pure** - free from all unholy and corrupt mixtures, whether of error or sin. (Benson)
- **peaceable** - inclines and engages those who have it to live in peace with the saints, and even with all men; with those of their own household, with their neighbors, yea, with their enemies
- **gentle** - "forbearing"; making allowances for others; lenient towards neighbors, as to the duties they owe us. (JFB)
It implies that gentleness whereby we bear with others' infirmities, forgive injuries, interpret all things for the best, recede from our own right for peace sake; and is opposed to that austerity and rigidity in our practices and censures, which will bear with nothing in weak, dissenting, or offending brethren. (Matthew Poole)
- **reasonable** - easy to be entreated - easily persuaded - willing to yield to others - those who have it readily yield to the superior judgments and stronger reasonings of others; and are easily induced to hope and believe all things, and entertain a good opinion of men, and their conduct; and are far from being proud, arrogant, obstinate, and overbearing (Gill)
- **full of mercy and good fruits** - of compassion and beneficence to the poor; feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the widows and fatherless in their affliction; and doing all other good works and duties, both with respect to God and man, as fruits of grace, and of the Spirit
- **without partiality** - not treating one person better than the other
- **without hypocrisy** - all of the above not to be feigned

vs. 18 - The fruit of godly wisdom - righteousness and peace

- Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls.
- Philippians 1:11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness
- Psalm 37:30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice.
- Proverbs 10:31 The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom, But the perverted tongue will be cut out.
- Proverbs 24:3 By wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established

Psalms 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom

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