



Study of: James

THEME: CHRIST INSIDE AND OUT

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Class 6 “How to Receive Heavenly Wisdom” Overview:

This lesson contrasts earthly wisdom with heavenly wisdom, which is "from above" and is reflected in our everyday behavior. Receiving heavenly wisdom requires humility and staying in the Spirit, the Word, and in godly Fellowship.

Class Objectives:

1. **What is the relationship between knowledge/understanding and wisdom?**
2. **What are some examples of how we are pressured to conform to this world?**
3. **How do we remain in a posture conducive to receiving heavenly wisdom?**

Defining Wisdom

James 3:13 “13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ”

- **“Wise”** - “sophos”[so-phlōs] - wise, skillful. Describes one who is experienced or practiced in a particular skill or possesses knowledge
- “And understanding[knowledgeable]” - possessing the information necessary to arrive at a level of understanding
- Note: There is NO such thing as wisdom apart from knowledge and understanding
 - Wisdom is the directing of the mind to the right application of knowledge and understanding
- **Only God** is the fullness of all knowledge, all understanding, and all wisdom (the omniscience of God)
 - **Romans 15:27 AMP** “27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forevermore! Amen.”
 - **Psalms 147:4-5** “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.”
- “Let him show” - A lot of Christians live in the space of KNOWING, but very few live in the space of SHOWING

Q. What is the relationship between knowledge/understanding and wisdom?

Defining Earthly Wisdom

James 3:15-16 *“15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”*

- THIS wisdom reveals its origin by what it produces [v14 - bitter envy and self-seeking, among other things]
 - Only two possibilities: “wisdom from above” or wisdom that is earthly, sensual, and demonic
 - Earthly (worldly and humanistic) - sensual (5 senses or non-spiritual) - demonic (works of devils and demons)
- **Radical Self-Atonomy - Manifestation:** The belief that human thoughts can manipulate reality and create destiny, effectively replacing divine providence with self-deification.
- **Redefined Morality - Hyper-Tolerance:** Celebrating and affirming behaviors that traditional theology defines as sinful, under the guise of compassion and enlightenment.
- **Counterfeit Spirituality - "Spiritual But Not Religious":** Rejecting divine authority, community accountability, and sacred scripture in favor of a customized, personalized belief system.
- **1 Timothy 4:1-2** *Now the Spirit [a]expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,”*
- Conformity comes through pressure to accept what is popular and convenient - it's the normalization of what stands against God - and we're teaching this in God's churches!

Q. What are some examples of how we are pressured to conform to this world?

Defining Heavenly Wisdom

James 3:17 *“17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”*

- **“From above”** - GK “anōthen”[an-oh-thin] - simply put “from heaven”
 - This wisdom is not PUSHED - this wisdom is PRESENTED (available but not easily obtained) - not for the carnal minded!
- **Stay in the Spirit - 1 Corinthians 2:6-7** *“6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God [a]ordained before the ages for our glory, “*
- **Stay in the Word - James 1:21** *“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and [d]overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”*
- **Stay in Fellowship - Hebrews 10:24-25** *“ 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching”*

Q. How do we remain in a posture conducive to receiving heavenly wisdom?