

Devotionals for James 3:13-18

Monday: Read v.13-18, marking the word *wisdom/wise*. James has been showing us the tests of living faith. Earlier in this chapter, living faith is evidenced by our speech. In this passage, living faith is shown in wisdom. There are 2 kinds of wisdom and it would be helpful to list each kind and to list their characteristics to visualize the contrast. Is wisdom the same thing as knowledge? Look up some definitions.

Tuesday: According to verse 13, who is James speaking to? The word wisdom, *sophia*, has to do with principles, theory; the word *understanding* has to do with the practical skill of applying those principles to daily life. In this same verse, how do those who claim to have God's wisdom and understanding prove it? (Hint:there are two ways). The word *gentleness*, means meekness(power under control). How are you in expressing to others the truth you believe? Is it in an arrogant "I know more than you" way?

Wednesday-Thursday: To gain some insight into human wisdom, read through Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:24. This is written by Solomon to whom God gave more human wisdom and understanding than anyone before or since. If your Bible uses the word *vanity*, it means empty/emptiness. Look up Isaiah 5:21 and 1Cor.1:19-21. Think about the times you were in need of answers to problems—whether addictions, behaviors, marital/family issues. Where/who did you go for guidance and direction? What does God say about human wisdom?

Friday: Wisdom **"does not mean knowledge. It does not mean information. It means the application of knowledge with divine power to the reshaping of life, transforming attitudes, transforming behavior into righteousness. Wisdom then is not what I know, wisdom is how I live. And so how I live according to the wisdom of God is a barometer on my spiritual condition."**(J.MacArthur)

Look up the following and list what you learn about 'wisdom from above': 1Cor.1:22-24; Psalm 111:10; Prov.3:19, 9:10,11:2,15:33; Job 28:28; Luke 21:14-15; Rom.11:33; Col.2:2-4.

What have you learned from this study? How the knowledge you gained make itself evident in your life?