



# *The Pursuit of Wisdom*

James 3: 13-18

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- *<sup>13</sup>If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. <sup>15</sup>For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. <sup>16</sup>For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. <sup>18</sup>And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.*

Biblical “WISDOM” is the ability to apply TRUTH to LIFE  
THE GOAL: To always fulfill the will and purposes of God.  
Wisdom involves KNOWLEDGE and UNDERSTANDING

Proverbs 2 *“My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands.<sup>2</sup> Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.<sup>3</sup> Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding.<sup>4</sup> Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures.<sup>5</sup> Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.<sup>7</sup> He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.”*

- 8 He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him.  
9 Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go.  
10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy.  
11 Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe.*

*Proverbs 4:5 “Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them.<sup>6</sup> Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.<sup>7</sup> The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”*

**Wisdom is “Truth applied to life as God defines it”**

*Paul warns us in Ephesians 5:15 says “Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”*

# How do I acquire this WISDOM

- ❖ **Fear God** Proverbs 9:10 *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the holy one is understanding”*
- ❖ **Develop your intimacy with Christ** Colossians 2:3 *“Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”*
- ❖ **Pursue WISDOM**
  - ❖ What does God say about this?
  - ❖ Joining God’s knowledge with Biblical understanding
  - ❖ Applying that to my particular situation
  - ❖ Get help if needed

# Trials are a part of life

- ❖ A trial is an adverse circumstance or set of circumstances that God causes or permits to take us to the next level of spiritual development.
- ❖ James declares when we are in this to ask God for wisdom how to navigate this trial, but ask in faith, without doubt.
- ❖ Satan will take the trial and try to use it to tempt us to abandon God's way.

# Proverbs 3

- *V 5-6 “Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”*
  - *The Message says it this way: “Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for GOD’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he’s the one who will keep you on track.”*
  - *He goes on to declare in verse 13... Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding.<sup>14</sup> For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold. <sup>15</sup> Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. <sup>16</sup> She offers you long life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left.*
- <sup>17</sup> She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying.*
- <sup>18</sup> Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly.*
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