

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*March 20, 2019*

### Two Kinds of Wisdom

**James 3:15-18**

**James 3:15** Such wisdom does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

1Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

James 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But, when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

“When looking back on the lives of men and women of God the tendency is to say-What wonderfully astute wisdom they had! How perfectly they understood all God wanted! The astute mind behind is the Mind of God, not human wisdom at all. We give credit to human wisdom when we should give credit to the Divine guidance of God. To receive means you have come into the relationship of a child of God, and now you perceive with intelligence and moral appreciation and spiritual understanding that these things come from God.” My Utmost For His Highest by Oswald Chambers

Job 28:28 And he said to man, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.

Job 32:1-9 So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God. He burned with anger also at Job's three friends because they found no answer, although they declared Job to be in the wrong. Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were older than he. And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, he burned with anger. And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said: I am young in years, and you are aged; therefore I was timid and afraid to declare my opinion to you. I said 'Let days speak and many years teach wisdom.' But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. It is not the old who are wise nor the aged who understand what is right.

Job 32:13 Beware lest you say, 'We have found wisdom'

Psalms 37:30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.

Psalms 51:6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. ESV

### **What is meant by the secret heart?**

This refers to man's inner most center of conscious life. To search mind and heart was a conventional expression for God's examination of man's hidden character and motives. NIV Notes

Let's look at a couple of examples in the Bible of how two godly men pursued wisdom. King Solomon indulged himself in every sort of pleasure, wealth and extravagance, but discovered that these earthly pleasures never satisfied him. In fact, it left him full of despair. Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find employment? To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Solomon concludes:

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Job was a blameless and upright man who feared God and shunned evil. God allowed satan to test Job's faith. Job wants to stand before God as an innocent man-not sinless, but innocent of any sin related to his suffering. Job 28:12,20,28 But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? Man does not comprehend its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living. Where then does it come from? Where does the understanding dwell? And he said to man, "The fear of the Lord-that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding."

Only in God does life have meaning and true pleasure. Without him nothing satisfies, but with him we find satisfaction and enjoyment. True pleasure comes only when we acknowledge and revere God. NIV Commentary Notes

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice have a good understanding. His praises endure forever.

The Hebrew Dictionary in the New Strong's Concordance describes the Fruits of Wisdom (chokmah) as being equal to the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. **What are the fruits of wisdom?**

1. Peaceable

2.Gentle

3.Humble

4.Merciful

5.Obedient

6.Impartial

7.Sincere

Proverbs 1:1-7 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 2:1-6 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge and understanding.

Turning your ear implies attentiveness and obedience. NIV Commentary

Ecclesiastes 8:16 When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep, then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out. (ERSV)

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law. (this verse sums up what we are allowed and not allowed to know)

James 3:16 **For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.**

1Corinthians 14:33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

“For wisdom requires a state of mind that is calm and composed, but envying disturbs it, so that in itself it becomes in a manner tumultuous, and boils up immoderately against others.”

*Martin Luther*

Merriam Webster defines disorder as: confuse, derange, disarray, disjoint, upset

Envy-defined as jealous

Selfish Ambition –“selfish ambition” Greek “eritheia,” described extreme selfishness. Originally used by one who spun thread for hire, then one who sowed for hire and eventually used for any work done for personal gain. Only used here in the NT and was used by Aristotle to describe one who sought a high political office or position of influence by unfair means.” *John MacArthur*

**What kind of wisdom does your life reveal? Is it for some selfish gain or status? Is it to promote your self-serving interests in any way?**

James 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

This verse reminds us of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus teaches the Beatitudes to the disciples and a crowd of people. (Matthew 5)

Matthew 7:24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house upon a rock. Let’s read about the wise man and the foolish man.

**Is your house built upon the rock or the sand?**

The Greek Dictionary from the *New Strong’s Concordance* defines pure (hagnos) as chase, clean, innocent, modest, “with pure motives” and is rendered sincerely.

“**Pure** is spiritual integrity, a moral sincerity, free from bitter jealousy, free from selfish ambition, free from arrogant self-promotion.” The true believer hates his sin, and rising out of his inmost being is a longing for what is clear and clean and pure and holy and good and honest, a shrinking from contamination, he wants clean hands and a pure heart. Heavenly wisdom is full of **good fruit**; that is, it manifests what is good and noble and righteous before God, as those who hungered and thirsted after righteousness.” *John MacArthur*

*Merriam-Webster* defines impartial as treating or affecting all equally. It is without partiality.

“The Epistle of James is the only place in the New Testament that uses the word impartial. It means unwavering, undivided in its commitment. There is no vacillating. There’s no shifting. There’s no turning one way and then another. It’s consistent.” *John MacArthur*

The *New Strong’s Concordance* defines **sincere** as a moral and ethical purity. This Christian virtue will exclude all double-mindedness.

Being submissive (Greek word Eupethis) is willing to yield, not stubborn, easily persuaded, teachable, compliant.

*Strong’s New Concordance* defines **mercy** (Greek word Eleos) as compassion and is the free gift for the forgiveness of sins and is related to the misery that sins brings. Grace removes guilt and mercy removes misery.

Philippians 1:15-17 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep your heart with diligence for out of it are the issues of life."

*Strong's New Concordance* defines diligence as guarding. So in the verse above, we are to guard our hearts.

James 3:18 **Peacemakers, who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness**

Matthew 5:8-9 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"True wisdom equals true righteousness. But that true righteousness which is fruit becomes seed and generates more true righteousness. It's the law of sowing and reaping. In a present tense form, it reads: And the fruit of the righteousness is being sown in peace by them that make peace. So James follows a clear line of thought. If one professes to be a Christian, he must prove it by living like a Christian. And nothing is more convincing than the kind of wisdom revealed in his or her behavior. God's wisdom will be revealed in the way we live. And when we hear Him and we love Him and we obey Him and we serve Him, it will be manifest by a purified heart in humble peacemaking deeds of righteousness that reproduce themselves."

*John MacArthur*