

SESSION 14  
JAMES 3. 13-18

Up to this point James has expounded upon three evidences of true faith in the believer whose life is centered upon Christ Jesus with a consequent renewed mind:  
 True faith evidenced by impartiality = deportment in community born of humility  
 True faith evidenced by works = obedience that reflects soul surrender to Christ  
 True faith evidenced by words = righteousness spoken by a tongue under the control of the Holy Spirit

James turns now to consider the question –What is true wisdom? Aspects of the answer to this question will be the topic of the rest of this epistle.

In an attempt to frame this study consider Proverbs 8.22-36. How would you define wisdom from this account?

	Father	First Reflections	Satan	First Reflections
		Light		Fear/Anxiety
		Truth		Deceit
Son	Holy Spirit	Wisdom	World	Dark Wisdom
			Flesh	Arrogance/Greed
				Wickedness

Wisdom is a first reflection of the Trinity and takes her place with Light and Truth as these three resonate among the Godhead. There is as well the antithesis of the Trinity with its resonating attributes.

V 13a What question is James really asking?

V 13b What is the exhortation James is giving us in this segment?

V 14 What are the character manifestations of wisdom that are not of the Holy Spirit? (Dark Wisdom)

The will within defines ambition that drives pursuit.  
 The truth is God’s instrument of regeneration. Js 1.18

In Whom should we boast?

1 Cor1.31

Jer 9.23-24

V 15 How does James further characterize this dark wisdom?

1 Cor 2.14

V 16 According to James, what are the outward manifestation of dark wisdom?

Jude 17-19

Gal 5.19

What is really scary about dark wisdom?

V 17 What are the chief characteristics of Godly wisdom? Phil 4.4-9

Wisdom which is pure controls the thoughts: as peaceable it counteracts those who are 'spoiling for a fight' and as gentle it does not insist on its own rights or the letter of the law. In being open to reason it will consider any sound argument, not merely one from a limited field; it wants to yield if in good conscience it can. It is always animated by mercy, a compassion which acts as well as feels, with good results; it produces good fruits. It has no uncertainty for it has no inner cleavage ( cf Js 1.6-7) and makes no unworthy distinctions (cf Js 2.4). At its heart is no insincerity and it adopts no pose.

RA Ward

V 18 What is James saying in this verse?

Mtt 5.9