

*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.*

*James 3:17 (New King James Version)*



# WISDOM

JAMES 3:17



WISDOM



1. The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise.
2. The soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of such experience, knowledge, and good judgment.

WISDOM



Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom.  
Proverbs 4:7

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom 2 Chronicles 1:7-13



WISDOM



Jesus told a construction story about wisdom  
Matthew 7:24-27



*“Therefore whoever hears these  
sayings of Mine,  
and does them, . . .*

WISDOM



I will liken him to a wise man  
who built his house on the rock:  
and the rain descended,  
the floods came, and the winds  
blew and beat on that house;  
and it did not fall, for it was  
founded on the rock.”



# WISDOM



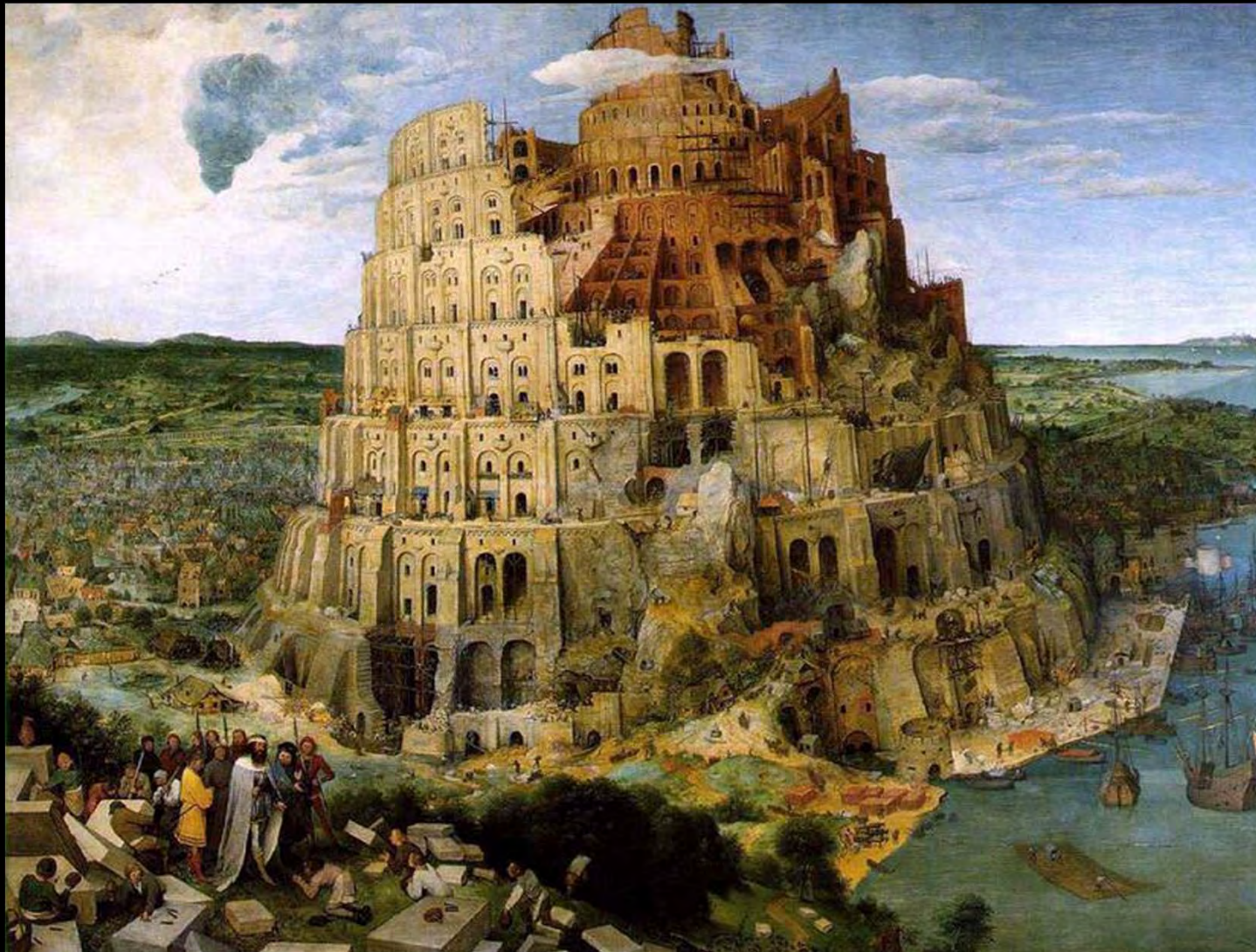
*“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”*



WISDOM



# The folly of man's wisdom:



The  
Tower  
Of  
Babel



WISDOM



# The folly of man's wisdom:



**Abraham went  
to Egypt during  
a famine and  
got more than  
food**

WISDOM



# The folly of man's wisdom:



**Lot took the  
best land  
heading  
towards Sodom**

WISDOM



# The folly of man's wisdom:



**Saul wanted to  
give David his  
armor to fight  
the giant**



WISDOM



# The folly of man's wisdom:



**Disciples  
wanted to send  
the crowd away**



WISDOM



# The folly of man's wisdom:



**Sailed when  
warned by Paul**

WISDOM



Wisdom is not a characteristic we  
can claim for ourselves.

It is a quality recognized by others.

True wisdom is measured by the  
depth of a person's character and  
actions.



WISDOM



# Two Types of Wisdom

**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

**James 1:5**

**James 3:13-18**

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:13

***Who is wise and understanding among you?  
Let him show by good conduct that his works are done  
in the meekness of wisdom.***

***Meekness = Power under control***



WISDOM



## JAMES 3:14-16 - EARTHLY WISDOM

*But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts,  
do not boast and lie against the truth.*

*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..*

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:14-16 - EARTHLY WISDOM

*But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts,  
do not boast and lie against the truth.*

**Bitter Envy**  
**Self-seeking in your hearts**

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:14-16 - EARTHLY WISDOM

*15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.*

**Not descend from above**

**Earthly – world's standards**

**Sensual – appeals to senses, emotions, feelings**

**Demonic – possessed by Satan and company**

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:14-16 - EARTHLY WISDOM

*15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.*

**Not from above**  
**Earthly – THE WORLD**  
**Sensual – THE FLESH**  
**Demonic – THE DEVIL**



WISDOM



## JAMES 3:14-16 - EARTHLY WISDOM

*16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*

**Envy & Self-seeking**

**Bring about**

**Confusion = instability, anarchy  
& Every evil**

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:14-16 - EARTHLY WISDOM

*16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*

**Extols as virtues:**

**Power**

**Position**

**Privilege**

**Prestige**

**(Who is greatest in the Kingdom?)**

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:17 – WISDOM FROM ABOVE

*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. <sup>18</sup> Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:17 – WISDOM FROM ABOVE

*But the wisdom that is from above*

**Every good gift from the Father above – James 1:17**

**Our citizenship is in heaven – Philippians 3:20**

**Our Father is in heaven – Matthew 6:9**

**Our treasure is in heaven - Matthew 6:19**

**We are born from above – John 3:1-7**

**Our home is in heaven – John 14:1-6**

**We set our affections on things above – Colossians 3:1-4**



WISDOM



## JAMES 3:17 – WISDOM FROM ABOVE

*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure*

**pure** (hagnos) - This wisdom is free from the corruption that characterizes ungodly wisdom. It is free from selfishness and the determination to have one's own way.

This describes both the condition of the heart and the manifestation of that condition in behavior

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:17 – WISDOM FROM ABOVE

*then peaceable,*

**Holding firm to the truth, makes every effort to be at peace - cf. Romans 12:18**

**For example, speaking the truth in an attitude of love –  
cf. Ephesians 4:15**

**Indian lady Hindu convert = Peace**

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:17 – WISDOM FROM ABOVE

**gentle,**

**Gentle reasonableness, moderation without  
compromise, gentleness without weakness**

**Sandburg called Abraham Lincoln - Velvet Steal**

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:17 – WISDOM FROM ABOVE

**willing to yield,**

**Agreeable and easy to work with**

**Willing to hear both sides**

**Man's wisdom often makes people hard and stubborn**

**Swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath – James 1:19**

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:17 – WISDOM FROM ABOVE

**full of mercy**

**Full = to be controlled by**

**Be merciful as your Father also is merciful Luke 6:36**



WISDOM



## JAMES 3:17 – WISDOM FROM ABOVE

**and good fruits, without partiality**

**Good Fruits = things for others**

**Not favoring some over others**

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:17 – WISDOM FROM ABOVE

**without hypocrisy**

**Not a play actor**

**When God's wisdom is at work there is openness and honesty.**

**Whenever you find God's people pretending you know that the wisdom of this world is governing the ministry**

WISDOM



## JAMES 3:18 – WISDOM FROM ABOVE

*Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those  
who make peace.*

*Good sown in peace rather than  
Envy, strife and confusion*

WISDOM



**Where is your source for wisdom?**

**From the Earth?**

**From Above?**

*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.*

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