

# Day Seven

James 3:13-18

13 Who is *wise* and *understanding* among you? By his good *conduct* let him show his *works* in the meekness of *wisdom*. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the *wisdom* that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the *wisdom* from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



Last week's LifeWork was to read James 3:13-18 and figure out the only thing that can help us tame the tongue. Any ideas?

## I. The Nature of True \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Helicopter/Traffic Jam Illustration:

1. Wisdom is skill in living. It's not a collection of truths. It doesn't come from amassing knowledge and understanding. You don't have to live on top of a mountain and wear a toga.
2. Wisdom is to knowledge what a cake is to culinary school.

### B. Wisdom requires knowledge and \_\_\_\_\_. (3:13)

1. In the same way that faith is not knowledge, wisdom is not knowledge.
2. Circle of Learning: Knowledge, Understanding, Wisdom, the Fear of God,
3. obedience = wisdom = faith. Therefore . . .

### C. Wisdom requires \_\_\_\_\_. (3:13)

1. The word "conduct" refers to the totality of our life — how we live.
2. The word "works" refers to the individual actions that make up our how we live.
3. This passage alone gives us quite a list of wisdom's works:
  - a) Wisdom submits to the Truth. (3:14)
  - b) Wisdom is meek (3:13)
  - c) Wisdom is pure. (3:17)
  - d) Wisdom is peaceable. (3:17)
  - e) Wisdom is \_\_\_\_\_. (3:17)
  - f) Wisdom is open to reason. (3:17)
  - g) Wisdom is full of mercy. (3:17)
  - h) Wisdom is full of good works. (3:17)
  - i) Wisdom is impartial. (3:17)
  - j) Wisdom is sincere. (3:17)
  - k) Wisdom is righteous. (3:18)
  - l) Wisdom is \_\_\_\_\_. (3:18)

II. The Nature of \_\_\_\_\_ Wisdom

- A. Bitter jealousy (3:14)
- B. Selfish ambition (3:14)
- C. Boasting (3:14)
- D. Falsehood (3:14)
- E. Earthly (3:15)
- F. Unspiritual (3:15)
- G. Demonic (3:15)
- H. Disorder (3:16)
- I. Vile practices (3:16)

III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of True Wisdom

- A. True wisdom comes from \_\_\_\_\_. (3:15)
- B. And just like the requirements for Truth (1:21) and faith (2:14, 24-25), wisdom requires a Savior.
  - 1. No \_\_\_\_\_ can tame the tongue . . .
  - 2. . . . but \_\_\_\_\_ can.
- C. These concepts aren't a contradiction. *We* cannot tame our tongues, but God can if we wisely submit to His Truth.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Time and again James shows us that we will do nothing more than fail in this life if we live in our own \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1. We can't survive suffering.
  - 2. We're doomed to live a lie.
  - 3. We can't be wise.
  - 4. And, therefore, we'll do all the things that lead to destruction and none of the things that produce joy, Truth, faith, peace, and life.
- B. And time and again James shows us that joy, faith, Truth, peace, and life come \_\_\_\_\_ from God. And James proves that reality over and over.
  - 1. He proved that those who don't know God are unstable. (1:5-8)
  - 2. He proved that we're deceived if we live a hypocritical life. (2:1-7)
  - 3. He proved that our profession of faith is worthless if it doesn't result in a life lived to the glory of God. (2:14-26)
  - 4. He proved that we cannot \_\_\_\_\_ in beneficial ways without God. (3:1-14)
  - 5. And next time we're going to see that we can't even live peacefully in community without killing each other if we don't \_\_\_\_\_ to God. (4:1-5)
- C. So, what are we waiting for? What's keeping us from submitting to His Truth?