What To Do When Wisdom Is Foolishness

What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do
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SELECTED SCRIPTURES: James 3:13-18

All scriptures from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted

*"**13** Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. **14** 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. **17** 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. **18** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."*
James 3:13-18

I. WORLDLY WISDOM

*"**13** Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. **14** 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."* **James 3:13-16**

A. THE <u>ORIGIN</u> OF WORLDLY WISDOM

1. <u>EARTHLY</u> WISDOM

"***15** This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic."* **James 3:15**

"…earthly…"

*"**20** Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"* **1 Corinthians 1:20**

"*21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,"* **Romans 1:21-22**

"'***5*** *For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'* ***6*** *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."* **Genesis 3:5-6**

2. <u>NATURAL</u> WISDOM

"***15*** *This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic."* **James 3:15**

"…natural (sensual)…"

Greek word: "Pseuke" - means "Natural" or "Soulish"

We get our words "Psychology" and "Psychiatry" from this word.

*"**14** But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* **1 Corinthians 2:14**

3. <u>DEMONIC</u> WISDOM

"…demonic…"

"***15*** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* ***16*** *For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.* ***17*** *And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."* **1 John 2:15-17**

B. THE <u>OPERATION</u> OF WORLDLY WISDOM

"***14*** *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth."* **James 3:14**

1. <u>JEALOUS</u> ANGER

"***14*** *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth."* **James 3:14**

"…bitter envy…"

2. <u>SELFISH</u> AMBITION

"***14*** *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth."* **James 3:14**

"…self-seeking or strife…"

3. **<u>PROUD</u> ARROGANCE**

"***14*** *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth."* **James 3:14**

"…do not boast and lie against the truth…"

*"**12** For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."* **1 Corinthians 10:12**

4. **<u>DECIETFUL</u> ACTIONS**

"***14*** *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth."* **James 3:14**

"…lie against the truth…"

Selfish ambition leads to manipulation and the attempt to elevate oneself. In order to be elevated, arrogant boasting must be utilized. Arrogant boasting inevitably leads to deceit and lying. That is the operation of worldly wisdom in the purest form.

C. THE <u>OUTCOME</u> OF WORLDLY WISDOM

*"**16** For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."* **James 3:16**

1. CONFUSION

*"**16** For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."* **James 3:16**

"…to disturb, or upheaval…"

Wherever the wisdom of the world operates, the result is inevitably chaos and convulsive conditions.

2. EVERY EVIL WORK

*"**16** For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."* **James 3:16**

"…worthless or no good thing…"

"Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work among this people, a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise *men* shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent *men* shall be hidden." **Isaiah 29:14**

II. HEVEANLY WISDOM

***17** 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. **18** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."* **James 3:17-18**

A. THE <u>ORIGIN</u> OF HEAVENLY WISDOM

"***17** 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."* **James 3:17**

"…from above…"

This wisdom is manifested through God's So. It's made available though God's Holy Spirit and it is written down in God's Holy Book — The Bible!

B. THE <u>OPERATION</u> OF HEAVENLY WISDOM

"***17** 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."* **James 3:17**

1. HEAVENLY WISDOM IS <u>PURE</u>

"***17*** *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."* **James 3:17**

2. HEAVENLY WISDOM IS <u>PEACEABLE</u>

"***17*** *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."* **James 3:17**

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. **Isaiah 26:3**

It is time for You to act, O Lord ,for they have regarded Your law as void. **Psalms 119:126**

3. HEAVENLY WISDOM IS <u>GENTLE</u>

"***17*** *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."* **James 3:17**

4. HEAVENLY WISDOM IS WILLING TO <u>YIELD</u>

"***17*** *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."* **James 3:17**

5. HEAVENLY WISDOM IS FULL OF <u>GRACE</u> AND GOOD <u>FRUITS</u>

"***17*** *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."* **James 3:17**

Our wisdom is demonstrated by our behavior.

"***20*** *But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"* **James 2:20**

"…faith without works is dead…"

6. HEAVENLY WISDOM IS WITHOUT <u>PARTIALITY</u>

"***17*** *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."* **James 3:17**

Someone who is not discriminatory towards others.

7. HEAVENLY WISDOM IS WITHOUT <u>HYPOCRISY</u>

"***17*** *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."* **James 3:17**

C. THE <u>OUTCOME</u> OF HEAVENLY WISDOM

"***18*** *Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."* **James 3:18**

A. FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUS

"***18*** *Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."* **James 3:18**

B. PEACE

"***18*** *Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."* **James 3:18**