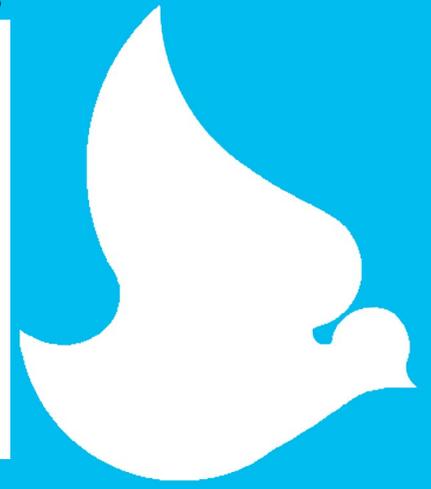


MAKE SURE IT'S HEAVENLY WISDOM

Faith is Evident When We
Exercise Heavenly Wisdom

6TH of the FAITH THAT SHOWS Series

James 3:13-18



MARKS OF THOSE WHO EXERCISE HEAVENLY WISDOM

¹³ *If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.*

¹⁴ *But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying.* ¹⁵ *For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.* ¹⁶ *For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.*

THOSE WHO EXERCISE HEAVENLY WISDOM DO NOT BOAST THAT THEY ARE WISE

¹³ *If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.*

- Boasting, or arrogance, is thinking highly of yourself or becoming proud of what you have achieved. Boasting is often concerned with status, position and power. Those who boast are the exact opposite of the humble.
- The untamed tongue makes great boast. This is why James poses the challenge in verse 13, "If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom" (NLT). James insists that: "it's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts" (v. 13).

- Heavenly wisdom produces the humility that distinguishes the wise and the understanding.
- Heavenly wisdom is proven by living an honorable life and is reflected in our good works.
- Boasting can never be exercised with heavenly wisdom

THOSE WHO EXERCISE HEAVENLY WISDOM DO NOT HARBOR BITTER ENVY AND SELFISH AMBITION

¹⁴ *But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying.* ¹⁵ *For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic.* ¹⁶ *For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.*

- Harboring bitter jealousy and selfish ambition are symptoms of the absence of heavenly wisdom. Boasting and lying bring complications.
- These are not any way near God's brand of wisdom (v. 15)
- These are earthly, unspiritual and demonic.
- Where these are present, there will be disorder and evil of every kind.

THOSE WHO EXERCISE HEAVENLY WISDOM BECOME PURE AND PEACE-LOVING

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. ¹⁸ And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

- What heavenly wisdom is all about:
 - Pure or holy life
 - Peace loving or getting along with others
 - Merciful, submissive, impartial and sincere
- Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. Seeds to sow:
 - "Work hard to get along with each other"
 - "Treat each other with dignity and honor"

CHALLENGE:

If we are true believers who desire to be wise and understanding, we must exercise heavenly wisdom. Let us seek God's wisdom and refuse earthly wisdom.

- Exercise heavenly wisdom and stop boasting that you are wise
- Exercise heavenly wisdom and stop harboring bitter envy and selfish ambition
- Exercise heavenly wisdom and strive to be pure and peace-loving

FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Do you think you are exercising heavenly wisdom or earthly wisdom?
2. Reflect: THOSE WHO EXERCISE HEAVENLY WISDOM DO NOT BOAST THAT THEY ARE WISE
3. Reflect: The untamed tongue makes great boast.



4. Reflect: James insists that: "it's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts" (v. 13).
5. Reflect: Boasting can never be exercised with heavenly wisdom
6. Reflect: THOSE WHO EXERCISE HEAVENLY WISDOM DO NOT HARBOR BITTER ENVY AND SELFISH AMBITION
7. Reflect: Envy and selfish ambition are not any way near God's brand of wisdom. These are earthly, unspiritual and demonic. Where these are present, there will be disorder and evil of every kind.
8. Reflect: THOSE WHO EXERCISE HEAVENLY WISDOM BECOME PURE AND PEACE-LOVING
9. Reflect: ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. ¹⁸ And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.
10. Share how you think you can apply these truths in your life.



Pastor Sur del Rosario