

September 27, 2026

CFBC... "James: Real Faith for a Real World"

"WISDOM FOR LIFE"

James 3:13-18

Knowledge is the accumulation of facts. We have access to more knowledge than at any other time in history. However, when it comes to living life successfully, we need more than facts and information. We need wisdom.

Wisdom is the ability to utilize knowledge with common sense and insight. Solomon was a young king who followed the legendary king David, his father. When God asked him what he wanted, he replied . . .

1 Kings 3:9... "So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

It pleased God that Solomon made this request. He replied to the young king . . .

September 27, 2026

CFBC... "James: Real Faith for a Real World"

1 Kings 3:12... behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, *I have given you a wise and discerning heart*, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.

James, who wrote his letter to displaced and persecuted Jewish Christians, employed rhetorical questions consistently. In fact, that's how he introduced the subject of wisdom in our text today.

. .

James 3:13... **Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.**

Wisdom is acknowledging the Lord our God in every aspect of your life. It is living in awe of God. .

.

Proverbs 9:10... The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

September 27, 2026

CFBC... "James: Real Faith for a Real World"

Here's the truth God's Spirit wants to plant in our hearts today . . .

FRAME YOUR LIFE WITH WISDOM.

It leads to a good life . . .

- **You'll be able to make money and keep it.**
- **You'll make great business decisions.**
- **You'll be blessed in your marriage.**
- **You'll be able to develop lasting friendships.**
- **You'll say the right things in the right way.**
- **You'll maximize your personal happiness.**
- **You'll raise your kids the right way.**
- **You'll know how to get right with God.**

James clarified an important issue for all who would read and study his letter. There are two kinds of wisdom. First, I want you to notice that there is. . .

1. FALSE WISDOM

James 3:14-16... But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

A.) The Source of False Wisdom (15)

James spells out the source in no uncertain terms. It is . . .

"Earthly"—this kind of wisdom is birthed out of the world system. Don't confuse knowledge with wisdom. The world is bursting with knowledge, but true wisdom is scarce.

1 Corinthians 1:18–21... For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." **20** Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this

age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21** For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

- **Man’s wisdom is foolishness to God.**
- **God’s wisdom is foolishness to man.**
- **Man’s wisdom comes from reason.**
- **God’s wisdom comes from revelation.**

“Natural”— False wisdom is based in the senses. Too many people make big decisions on the basis of their feelings. This wisdom originates in man’s nature totally apart from the Spirit of God.¹

1 Corinthians 2:14–15... But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 363.

September 27, 2026

CFBC... “James: Real Faith for a Real World”

appraised. **15** But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

“Demonic”— In Genesis 3, Satan convinced Eve that if she ate from the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil* she would become wise. In Mark 8, even Peter dipped into demonic wisdom when he had the audacity to correct Jesus . . .

Mark 8:31–33... And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **32** And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. **33** But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

B.) The Marks of False Wisdom (14)

Actions speak louder than words. One can claim to be a Christian when he is lost. One can claim to have true wisdom while, in fact, he/she lives in such a way

September 27, 2026

CFBC... “James: Real Faith for a Real World”

that it’s apparent he/she is operating out of false wisdom. What are the marks of false wisdom?

“Bitter jealousy”— This refers to a harsh attitude that results in one resenting the success of others and being quick to fight for their rights and their position.

“Selfish ambition”— Here is one who is determined to get what he/she wants no without considering the impact it can have on others. It’s all about self.

“Arrogance”— When God’s wisdom is at work, there is a sense of humility and submission, and you want God to get all the glory.² When this false wisdom is at work, pride is the driving force.

“Deceit”— We must have a zeal for the truth, but our zeal must not be unspiritual or mixed with lies.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 364.

September 27, 2026

CFBC... “James: Real Faith for a Real World”

C.) The Results of False Wisdom (16)

“Disorder”— The Greek word here pictures confusion and chaos. Instead of creating unity, people are driven apart.

“Every evil thing”— This refers to the widespread presence and the practice of evil.

How tragic life is for one who is dominated by false wisdom. Fortunately, there is a better alternative than false wisdom! I want to remind you of the challenging truth that the Spirit of God is putting before us today . . .

FRAME YOUR LIFE WITH WISDOM.

Okay, there is false wisdom. Thank goodness, there is . . .

2. TRUE WISDOM

I want you to see the source, the marks, and the results of this true wisdom . . .

September 27, 2026

CFBC... “James: Real Faith for a Real World”

A.) The Source of True Wisdom (17)

Notice it comes from above, from God Himself.

Proverbs 2:6... For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding.

Colossians 1:9... For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

B.) The Marks of True Wisdom (17)

“Pure”— Notice the word *“first.”* That means that purity is first in importance. This refers to being free from every selfish and sensual and sinful motive and attitude.

Matthew 5:8... “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

“Peaceable”— True wisdom does not create disharmony between people. It brings them together. It produces right relationships!

September 27, 2026

CFBC... “James: Real Faith for a Real World”

“Gentle”— This means to make allowances for the feelings of others, being considerate.

“Reasonable”— True, godly wisdom puts one in position to listen to others and being willing to learn from others. It’s the opposite of stubborn.

“Full of mercy and good fruits”— This person is ready to forgive others. It’s a reference to compassion. Good fruits refers to practical action.

“Unwavering”— God’s wisdom is not fickle. It is dependable.

“Without hypocrisy”— This speaks of sincerity. The believer who operates out of God’s wisdom never feel like they have to put on an act to impress others.

This is a description of the good life; the life God will bless!

C.) The Results of True Wisdom (18)

True wisdom produces two results . . .

September 27, 2026

CFBC... “James: Real Faith for a Real World”

“Righteousness”— This is the fundamental reality of being right with God and living according to God’s will.

“Peace”— This refers to right relationships between individuals.

Matthew 5:9... “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

CONCLUSION

Here’s our truth for today. . .

FRAME YOUR LIFE WITH WISDOM.

You have a choice to make—*false wisdom* or *true wisdom*. I want to encourage you to adopt the wisdom from above. The impact on your family, your friends, your co-workers, and your fellow church members is off the charts. Here’s how you can frame your life with God’s wisdom . . .

September 27, 2026

CFBC... "James: Real Faith for a Real World"

Receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:30... But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.

Read and Study the Bible.

Psalms 19:7... The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Pray in Faith. (James 1:5-6)

James 1:5-6... But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **6** But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

Develop a Reverence for the Lord.

Psalms 111:10... The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

September 27, 2026

CFBC... "James: Real Faith for a Real World"