

Audio file

[Study 27 Journeying with James 5726gsm_james_3_v14-18.mp3](#)

Transcript

00:00:00

I'm turning now in the scriptures and the New Testament to the Epistle of James in chapter 3.

00:00:06

James chapter 3 and verse 13.

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James chapter 3 and verse 13.

00:00:17

Who is a wise man, and endured with knowledge among you?

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Let him show out of a good conversation

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His works with meekness of wisdom.

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But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

00:00:43

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

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For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

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But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

00:01:17

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

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The Lord will bless his word to our hearts.

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Now our text this morning is found in verses 14 to 18, and particularly the focus will be upon two kinds of wisdom, two kinds of wisdom.

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If we want to advance in study, we need to work and to study.

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If we want to become educated according to the world's standards, then we need to go to school, to college, to university, and particularly in working life to continue to upgrade our skills and do professional development for the rest of our working career.

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But is that the wisdom James is speaking about here?

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Is he speaking about study?

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Is he speaking about knowledge that you acquire through much hard work and study of the texts that are laid before you by your instructors?

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Well, sadly, today, wisdom cries out.

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Wisdom

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is ignored and refused and rejected, particularly the wisdom that is outlined here.

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Here we have two types of wisdom contrasted.

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On the one hand, we have the earthly wisdom, and we'll see its characteristics in a moment.

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And then we have the godly wisdom that God alone can give to those who are His.

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But notice how James begins this section.

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He poses a question.

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And this really leads back to what we studied last week.

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If you remember what we studied, we called it the message taming the tongue.

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And of course, we think immediately of this tiny little organ in our mouths, and we think that's what James is speaking about here.

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Well, in a way, yes, but he's using it as a figure of speech.

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The tongue represents the facility of speech, of what we talk about, who we talk about, how we talk about things and people.

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And we sought to gather the problem.

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That was the first thing.

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It's impossible to tame the tongue.

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It's easier to tame a wild animal.

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Large elephants have been tamed.

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Large sea creatures have been tamed.

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You see, sometimes these orcas, especially in videos of a past generation, and they were in a large enclosure.

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These are called killer whales, but the proper term is orca.

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We saw some of the unusual animals that have been tamed, but it's impossible to tame the tongue without divine help.

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We saw there were two proofs, and we saw this in the previous section.

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that we bless God on the one hand and we curse men on the other.

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That's the proof.

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And remember, friends, the application here is directly to the Lord's own people.

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Because James points out in verse 10, My brethren, this is for Christians, this is not for the world,

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This is not for the worldly-minded person.

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This is not for the carnal person.

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This is not for the fleshly person.

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This is not for the child of the world.

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This is for the child of God.

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We were challenged, we were convicted, I'm sure, but also we were comforted.

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Because not only did we see the problem, secondly, we saw the proof.

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Thirdly, we learned some pastoral helps from some of those of a previous generation.

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And I sat down this week and I went over those same notes and I summarized it into five alliterated hours.

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Number one, realize we are weak.

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That's the first thing.

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Realize we are weak, even as Christians.

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Secondly, rely upon God in prayer, especially when you're tempted to speak your mind, hold your tongue.

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Do you remember what one of the old worldies said?

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We've been given a gate to stop our tongues losing control.

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It's called our teeth.

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It's quite an interesting concept, isn't it?

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You clench your teeth, but rely upon God in prayer.

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Pray to God.

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Remember you have the word of God, or as we saw together,

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Memorize or study the word of God.

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Fourth, rehearse God's word to ourselves.

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That's memorize and meditate.

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And fifth, reflect upon the God's goodness that you're not, you don't speak as you used to.

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You're a changed person.

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You're no longer a child of the world.

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As a Christian, you're now a child of God.

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So this morning we're going to look very briefly at this portion of Scripture.

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And our first point is a very simple one, but I hope it's helpful.

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The first thing is the wise believer, the wise believer.

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Look at how James begins this little section.

00:07:16

Who is a wise man and endures with knowledge among you?

00:07:22

A wise man.

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Now those of us who know our Bibles know exactly

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who the wisest man of the ancient world was.

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And it wasn't Nebuchadnezzar, though he was very powerful.

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It was a mere king of Israel.

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And it wasn't David.

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It was Solomon.

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And Solomon was flawed like us all.

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He was a sinner like us all.

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But in his wonderful book of Proverbs, he gives us something of the

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the flavor of Godly wisdom and I'm just going to turn to one or two chapters there I'm going to turn first of all to Proverbs chapter 3 and verse 21 because I want us to get a flavor of what this wisdom is like my son let not them depart from thine eyes what are these these things well there's knowledge and wisdom and truth and

00:08:22

instruction.

00:08:23

But my son, let them not depart from thine eyes, keep sound wisdom and discretion, so shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

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Then shalt thou walk and thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

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When thou lowest down, thou shalt not be afraid, yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

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Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked when it cometh.

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For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

00:09:02

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

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Say not unto thy neighbour, Go and come again, and to-morrow I will give thee, when thou hast it by thee.

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Devise not evil against thy neighbor, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

00:09:21

Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

00:09:26

Envy thou not that the oppressor and choose none of his ways, for the froward is abomination to the Lord, but his secret is with the righteous.

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And I wonder, did you ever pause and think that even that short description there

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It gives us a template or a basis to live a wise, God-honouring life.

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The secret, of course, is found in chapter 1, The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

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But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

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And it's very interesting when you turn me back to James chapter 3, how James puts this question, Who is a wise man?

00:10:24

Who is a wise person and endowed with knowledge among you?

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And these two words, I just want to look at this very briefly.

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A wise man.

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What's a wise man?

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Well, the original language, we get this word Sophia.

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And it's used, this term Sophia is used four times even in this section.

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It's used in verse 13 and the end of the verse, meekness of wisdom.

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And then in verse 15, this wisdom descendeth not from above.

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That's the earthly wisdom or earthly knowledge.

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And then verse 17, but the wisdom that is from above is first pure.

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If you know anybody called Sophia,

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Then her parents thought that she might have grown up as a very wise little girl.

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Whether she did or not, we don't know.

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But if you do, and she is a wise little girl, then she's well named.

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So I hope you remember that name.

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Sophia, Sophie, this word wisdom, it's used many times in the New Testament.

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But I wanted to bring you to the Old Testament to show you the bedrock or the foundation of where James is coming from.

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Now, of course, he's surrounded by philosophers.

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He has been an apostle of Jesus Christ, sorry, he's been a follower of Jesus Christ.

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He's also been one who's no doubt been aware of some of the great philosophers of a previous generation, Aristotle, Plato, Euripides, all these famous philosophers.

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And yet, that's not the wisdom he's speaking about.

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He's speaking about the wise believer.

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A wise man.

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The second word he uses is knowledge.

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And it's literally, we get the, I won't give you the literal word, but I'll give you the explanation of the word.

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It means to be expert, skilled, usually associated with a master artificer.

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Somebody who works with fine gold or jewelry.

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Someone who's very skilled.

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And of course,

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To be wise and to be knowledgeable is a marvelous combination.

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Of course, we live in the days of the expert.

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Sadly, so few are expert in the things that they need to be expert in.

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It's amazing how people can claim to be an expert in something through social media, and they don't actually have the qualifications to do so.

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I was told only this week of a man who was from a

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another country, the Far East, and he came over and he had grown up in a poor enough background and he arrived in this country and he did very well for himself and he went out and bought himself a doctorate.

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Is he wise?

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Is he an expert?

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No.

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The man who told me this story was actually a doctor.

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a real doctor, and he knew his onions, as we say in this part of the world.

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He knew the subject.

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He's an expert in certain field of community development.

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And he has all the criteria, but this man just went out and bought a doctorate.

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But it's very interesting.

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For those who aren't educated, this man who had bought his doctorate, who did no study, took him about six months to get a doctorate,

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Unless you're a genius, it's impossible, so he said, so my friend said.

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But he was amongst a consortium, and he was particularly at a particular high-level intellectual event to do with business studies, and a lot of the people there had doctorates in business.

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And it was very interesting, my friend told me, the reaction of those who had our genuine doctorate, who had done the study, who had fulfilled the criteria, who had handed in their thesis, and had been accredited by a recognized university.

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They all said, that's the man who bought his doctorate.

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In other words, he's not really an expert in anything.

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Just because you have the money doesn't mean you're an expert.

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Just because you have a name doesn't mean you're an expert, and particularly when it comes to the things of God.

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But how would we know if someone is wise?

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Well, James tells us, Let him, let them, show out of a good conversation, this word conversation.

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Yes, it includes speech, that would link with the previous section, but it also incorporates a whole life, our whole lifestyle, how we live, how we act.

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who we associate with.

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You can always tell somebody who's wise, and somebody who's been with wise people, by how they live.

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Sadly, today, the elderly are despised by many.

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But in a previous generation, and I certainly would say this, I grew up surrounded by wise old people.

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Now, they weren't wise about the things of God, but they were wise about the things of life.

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Some of them wanted us, as young people, not to make the same mistakes as they did.

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They had learned from their mistakes.

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It's one thing to fail in something, but it's more important to learn from our failures.

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I remember one old man saying that to me.

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Sadly, today, when we think of wise people, they're not elderly.

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They're usually young.

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Sadly, they haven't got much life experience.

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To be wise, you see this godly wisdom in good lifestyle, in a God-honoring lifestyle.

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We'll see more of this in a moment.

00:16:36

His works with meekness of wisdom.

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Meekness is not weakness.

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Our Lord Jesus was not weak.

00:16:45

When he faced those who were blaspheming God, when he faced those who were denying the true gospel of salvation, he was strong.

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Meekness is not weakness.

00:17:01

It is gentleness, but inner strength.

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There's a meekness that has conviction.

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Just because somebody has a certain conviction from the Bible doesn't mean they're weak.

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And it's meekness of wisdom.

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See that word?

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Meekness of wisdom.

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So in ancient times, the old sage was seen as the wisest person.

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In traditional storytelling, certainly from our part of the world, the wisest man is often the oldest and has had many experiences.

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And he communicates some of these experiences to the young.

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But the wisdom of God is different.

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The wisdom of God is not worldly wisdom.

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The wisdom of God is not acquired by great study of great subjects.

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The wisdom of God is found in the word of God.

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I've already shown that from Proverbs three, but you can find it right throughout scripture.

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And we'll see in a moment the contrast, our works

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Our actions, our lifestyle, prove whether we have godly wisdom or not.

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When someone is converted to Christ, when someone becomes a new Christian, the Apostle Paul reminds the Church in Corinth of who Christ is now to them.

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He is their wisdom, their righteousness, their sanctification, and their redemption.

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When someone becomes a Christian, not only is our heart changed, but our behaviour changes, our acts change.

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Because there's a new principle now in the heart of the believer, old behaviours, old habits, even if they were darling habits, are rejected and, by the grace of God, forsaken.

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That's the wise believer.

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You'll know a wise believer, a wise Christian, by how they live.

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That's the lovely thing about having a church with older Christians.

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I've preached in churches where the average age of the congregation was about 18.

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There wasn't much wisdom amongst those folk.

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I was talking to a man a few years ago at a conference, a pastor,

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in South Africa.

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And he says, because we were talking about our congregations, and he says, Well, I'll tell you what I'll do.

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We'll do an exchange.

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Because he had no old people.

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He was the oldest of his congregation, and he was in his 40s.

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It was a new Reformed Baptist work that had begun.

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And he had all these young people.

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And he says, Well, what we could do is hire a charter flight and some of your folk can come to us for a few weeks and some of our folk can go to yours.

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Now, it's unrealistic, isn't it?

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But do you see the point?

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Just because it's a young congregation doesn't mean it's a wise congregation.

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I trust because it's an older congregation, we are wiser.

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The saddest thing I've met is older believers

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who have little wisdom.

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And they're carried about and they're orchestrated and manipulated by the wrong kind of teaching.

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That's sad.

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Well, let's move on.

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We've seen the wise believer.

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Now he shows how we thought before conversion.

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This is what James does.

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In verses 14 and 15, and through to verse 16, he gives us a summary of what earthly knowledge is.

00:21:01

That's the second point.

00:21:02

Earthly knowledge.

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You can't call this wisdom, at least not in the definition we're using here.

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This is earthly knowledge.

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What does it look like?

00:21:12

Well, it's bitter.

00:21:14

It's envying and strife in your hearts.

00:21:16

Glory not, boast not, and lie not against the truth.

00:21:19

This wisdom descended not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish, for where envying and strife is, there is confusion in every evil work.

00:21:31

And here he shows us what earthly knowledge is really like.

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And sadly, even though we're Christians, and James would have acknowledged this, we still have this tendency.

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at times, to follow in this path.

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And do you see how practical James is here?

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If ye have bitter envying, jealousy.

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And I want us to look at just a few of these, five and all.

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First of all, bitter.

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The word here is piccross from the original language.

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It's sharp, it's piercing.

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It's not pickle, it's not from that word.

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But it might help you to remember, when you have some bitter pickle, you know what it's like.

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I believe some sports stars, when they get this thing called cramp, that they have to take this bitter juice, they call it pickle juice.

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It's not pickle, but it's very, very bitter, and it seems to alleviate the cramp.

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Maybe it's just the taste of it, I don't know.

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But if there's any chemists out there, you get the word picrate acid.

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It's a type of acid, and that's the word.

00:22:46

It's bitter.

00:22:47

It's bitter.

00:22:48

You see this bitter envying.

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They go together.

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But I wanted to break it up because the word here sounds good.

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It's zeus.

00:22:58

But literally, it's heated.

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You could translate this as jealous.

00:23:04

You know, zeal is a good thing.

00:23:07

when it's in the right way, going in the right path, with the right purpose and the right aim.

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Zeal for the Lord is so important, but this word is to do with being jealous, being envious, being heated.

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And it's strife, this is trouble, it's tumultuous, it's like a sea, as he goes on a little further, to describe what's going on in the heart.

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It's foaming.

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It's not settled.

00:23:44

Glory not.

00:23:46

Boast not.

00:23:48

Don't boast of this.

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This kind of earthly knowledge, and you hear it so often.

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You can sadly find boastful Christians.

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Ah, the Apostle Paul says, He boasts only in the Lord Jesus Christ, from the world was crucified unto him

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and he was crucified unto the world.

00:24:11

Who do we boast of?

00:24:13

Who do we speak much of?

00:24:16

Well, this boasting or this glory not and lie not against the truth.

00:24:24

We lie not against the truth.

00:24:25

We're not against the truth.

00:24:27

We're for the truth.

00:24:28

But notice then the source of this wisdom, verse 15, the wisdom descendeth not from above.

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It's not from above.

00:24:38

Above here speaks of God, speaks of divine, speaks of a holy place.

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In James's mind, he's thinking of wisdom that comes from on high.

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No, no, no, no, it doesn't come from there.

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And this is another aspect.

00:24:54

It's earthly.

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The word here is worldly.

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It speaks about the principle of the world.

00:25:01

The world is against God.

00:25:04

The world hates God.

00:25:07

You might not be familiar with that, but the Bible teaches us that the world hates God.

00:25:14

I'm not talking about the created world.

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I'm talking about the thinking and the agenda of the world.

00:25:23

And this wisdom that comes from below is earthly and there's another thing, it's sensual.

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Literally, it's animal.

00:25:38

It's driven by carnal flesh desires.

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And woe betide anyone that criticizes it.

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It's very interesting how applicatory this could be in our day and generation.

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This is the earthly wisdom.

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It's of the flesh.

00:25:56

It can be all kinds of sexual things, it can be all kinds of other things, but it's sensual.

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We live in a world that is satiated with sensualness.

00:26:10

But that's we're earthly.

00:26:13

And we're carried along by our flesh and by our desires and by our feelings and by our wants.

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But God's word says that's not wise.

00:26:24

Certainly it's not his wisdom.

00:26:25

But then notice the last thing, as if it wasn't bad enough, he says, it's devilish.

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This is darker than he can be.

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Our old English word, we get devil.

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In the original language, it's diabolus and demon.

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Devil and demon.

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But that obscures the word here.

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This false wisdom, which he condemns, is demon-like.

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That's something else, isn't it?

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Remember the man in Luke chapter 8 who's driven to madness by demons.

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Do we not see this in our nation today?

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Earthly wisdom, sensual, carnal, sadly at times devilish.

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What's happening in the cold light of day, is that not devilish?

00:27:26

What you're hearing in your news feeds

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Is some of it not devilish?

00:27:32

It's not wise.

00:27:34

And you have experts saying, well, what we need to do is improve people's lifestyles, improve their standard of living, improve their environments, make sure that they're as comfortable as they can be.

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That doesn't deal with the real issue.

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Because the real issue isn't to do with the outward, it's to do with the inward.

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The real issue is not to do with the mind, it's to do with the heart.

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The real issue is not just to do with the facilities or the environment.

00:28:02

It's to do with the very core of people's nature.

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And this is what James does.

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He exposes it.

00:28:09

Now, of course, the Holy Spirit knows exactly how this will apply in our day.

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And I'll leave it to you to work it out.

00:28:21

It's wrong today to disagree with someone, even if you're in the right.

00:28:25

Did you know that?

00:28:27

You offend people by having a clear stance on certain issues.

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That can't be right, friends.

00:28:34

That can't be right.

00:28:37

The Bible is so clear.

00:28:39

And our forebears went to the stake, and even some of them burned at the stake.

00:28:44

Some of them were killed before they died of burning.

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And they went there because they knew that God's wisdom is more important than man's wisdom or ecclesiastical wisdom.

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So there's the wise man, the first thing.

00:29:01

Secondly, the worldly wisdom, or the earthly wisdom, I'd rather call it, or the earthly knowledge.

00:29:06

It's from below.

00:29:08

It comes from below.

00:29:10

So in contrast, what's the wisdom from above like?

00:29:13

Well, look at verse 17, and I know I'm going quickly, the wisdom that is from above.

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It's inspired.

00:29:24

It's of God.

00:29:24

It's attractive, especially to the believer.

00:29:30

It's life-changing.

00:29:31

It's life-transforming.

00:29:33

It's habit-expunging.

00:29:38

When we know God's word, when we study God's word, when we memorize God's word, God does something in our hearts.

00:29:48

God reveals this wisdom to us.

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by his spirit is not the Holy Spirit the author of the whole of the Bible every last verse of it in the Hebrew and the Greek and if you really know your Bible you know there's a little bit of it in Chaldea as well you see here in the Bible you have the word of God and you also have the wisdom of God ah but it came from above says James didn't come from with us within us we didn't weren't born with it we

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Didn't buy it.

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We couldn't earn it.

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It comes from God.

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It's a gift.

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And the most wisest people I've ever met are Christians who have put into practice the Word of God.

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Not when it comes to Old Testament laws concerning Israel.

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We're not bothered about that, but principles that are found in the Word of God.

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You learn so much from older people, older Christians.

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Well, what are the 8 proofs that James gives us here?

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Well, let's look at them.

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First, the first one is pure.

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Literally, it's unstained.

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It's not corrupted by society.

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It's not corrupted by men and women's opinions.

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It's not influenced by a corrupt philosophy or ideology.

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This wisdom is pure, it's holy, it's unblemished.

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This wisdom is found in Christ.

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As I said already, He is the wisdom, the righteousness, the sanctification, and the redemption of His people.

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When we have Christ as our Savior, we have this wisdom.

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That's why we have this constant battle going on within our hearts, within our very core of our being.

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There's a constant battle going on between the flesh and the spirit.

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One day, dear friend, that battle will be finally over.

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And flesh will be conquered forever.

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But then until that time, ask the Lord to give you wisdom, pure wisdom, true wisdom.

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Wisdom that honors our Savior.

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Secondly, it's peaceable.

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This literally means it's forbearing.

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It's not contentious.

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Although, sadly, when we show this kind of wisdom, it can be seen as contentious.

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We're not contending with God.

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It's peaceable.

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Thirdly, it's gentle.

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It's gentle.

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This means it's not rash.

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It's not overbearing.

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Think of how our Savior dealt with the lowest of society.

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How peaceable, how forbearing, how gentle He was.

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Fourth, it's easily entreated.

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It's not impatient, but it's also not compromising.

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To be easily entreated means that when someone who is a wise Christian shows us our error, we change our behavior.

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There are things I could share from my own experience, but probably the most telling one was honouring the Lord's Day.

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I don't know about you, but as a young Christian, I didn't get much teaching on the Lord's Day.

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The church I went to was a good church, but it so happened that the pastor didn't really deal with these subjects.

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But I remember one day, a Lord's Day afternoon, I was doing something that I was involved in a sport, and

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I remember coming to me as clear as could be, why are you here?

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And I heard words that I'd read just that week from the prophecy of Isaiah called the Sabbath a delight.

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I know people say, well, therefore we should worship on the Saturday, but the principle was, why are you here instead of worshiping the Lord?

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Why aren't you?

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went in the morning, but what are you doing now?

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That's convicting, I have to admit.

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But I'm thankful that the Lord was gracious to me.

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See, the Holy Spirit sometimes takes these principles, and maybe you've had this experience this week.

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You were reading the Bible, and all of a sudden, something that you'd read for years, a portion you'd been reading for years, suddenly it came home to you.

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That's because you're wise, and you're open to be taught of God's

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word and you're wise to be humble enough to say, Lord, teach me.

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Well, the fifth thing is to be full of mercy, not resentful or grudging, not holding a grudge.

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And sadly, some of us can be tempted to do just that.

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Somebody has wronged us and they have asked for forgiveness.

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You might be a husband or a wife and we won't forgive them.

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Well, friends, to be wise, we won't hold resentment.

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We won't hold it against them.

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We won't bring it up every time we have another quarrel.

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And I know that's not easy for some.

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I know some of us have seen that in our childhood.

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Some of us have seen it in other circles.

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But the Lord says to us, That's not wise, dear child.

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Don't resent those who have hurt us, especially those who have asked us for forgiveness.

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The sixth thing is to be fruitful.

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If you went out to your apple tree in your orchard, or you went to a friend's orchard in the autumn, you'd expect fruit to be there, wouldn't you?

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Well, what kind of fruits?

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They're full of mercy and good fruits.

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Good fruits.

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Of course, here we could think about the fruit of the Spirit, those nine glorious fruit, all one fruit from the work of the Spirit.

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They're all should be seen in the child of God, the fruit of the Spirit.

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Do you remember what they are?

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I had to memorize all these things when I was a young Christian.

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Some of us perhaps have memorized them and still remember them, but do you remember?

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The first was love, second, joy, third, peace, fourth, long-suffering, fifth, gentleness, sixth, goodness, seventh, faith, eighth, meekness.

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Ninth temperance or self-control.

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And they may, we trust, be all there in an older believer, and we can see them very clearly.

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And for us of younger generation, we might not see them all in the fullness, but we trust they're there in the seed.

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And the 7th thing is to be impartial.

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We don't get influenced by personal selfishness and personal agenda.

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This is so important.

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This doesn't mean that we sit on the fence when it comes to ethical issues of our day, no.

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It just means that we don't get influenced by our own personal wants.

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There are certain teaching in the Bible regarding worship, regarding the Lord's Day, regarding how Christians should live, how we should speak, how we should witness.

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They're all there in scripture.

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Our hearts are attuned to the things of God.

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Our hearts are like a violin, well-tuned, so that when we play the violin, we produce a glad sound, a nice sound.

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And the last thing, and if you notice, James puts this in James 3 and verse 17, Without hypocrisy, without hypocrisy, it has no guile.

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And that immediately reminds me of a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ called Nathaniel.

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And the Lord's commendation of this young man, who was a brother of Philip, said, Behold an Israelite in whom there is no guile.

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There's no hypocrisy.

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He does believe something, and yet...

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Nathaniel is astonished that the Lord knows his own heart because he saw him under the fig tree.

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But how is this sown?

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Well, James then goes on to say, The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

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Fruit of righteousness is sown.

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It's sown where?

00:38:45

In the heart.

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And it's sown in peace.

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You can summarize it like this.

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When the peace of God rules the heart, all these virtues and graces grow and flourish abundantly.

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I thought of two examples.

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First of all, the vegetable patch in our allotment.

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Sometimes we sow seeds in an allotment.

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I don't think it's wise to sow seeds in a craft.

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They'll be all eaten by the birds.

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But you can sow it in your allotment or in your little cold frame

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And you expect the seeds to flourish.

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They don't all flourish, but we trust most of them do.

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But we're thinking of a larger expanse now.

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We're thinking of a farm.

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The wheat was sown, and the seed has germinated.

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And you see the plants gradually growing up.

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The green shoots, and the stalk, and the ear begins to form.

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And as a farmer has sown, so he will reap.

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Hosea 10 and verse 12, the Lord says to his people and to us, sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy, break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

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This is what Matthew Henry puts, how he puts it.

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That which is sown in peace will produce a harvest of joy.

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let me leave you with this one thought.

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Those that in peace sow peace shall reap a harvest of righteousness, the fruit of peace.

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Such a springtime and such an autumn we look forward to.

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Let us pray.

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Almighty and gracious God,

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We thank Thee for Thy precious word.

00:40:42

We thank Thee, O Lord, for giving us clear, unmistakable instruction in Thy precious truth, that Thou hast, O Lord, and made us wise unto salvation, and the mercy of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

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But, O Lord, we know that we need to grow in wisdom and knowledge and righteousness and holiness.

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And so we thank Thee for this word of God.

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We pray that Thy Spirit will continue to be our teacher and our great instructor in the things concerning Thyself.

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We pray that Christ will become all the more precious to us in these days, and in our lives, and in our homes, and in our communities.

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And we ask, O Lord, that Thou would bless each one here.

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We ask these mercies, the forgiveness of our sin, in Christ's holy and precious name, for his sake.

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Amen.