



WALKING IN WISDOM

By Pastor Benny Ho

James 3: 13 – 18 – “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”

James 3: 13 – “Who is wise and understanding amongst you?”

The Greek word for “*wise man*” is the word “*sophos*” which is used generally to denote someone who is learned, skilled and intelligent. It speaks of someone who has insight into the true nature of things.

The Greek word for “*understanding*” is the word “*epistemon*”, translated as “*endued with knowledge*”. It denotes someone who has expert knowledge.

3 THINGS ABOUT WISDOM

1. THE ROOT OF WISDOM

THE MESSAGE BIBLE

“Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here’s what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It’s the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts...”

vs 13 in the **NIV** – “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life; by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.”

○ “*wisdom*” – “*sophia*” – “*insight into the true nature of things*”

vs 14 – “But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast about it or deny the truth...”

vs 17 – “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all PURE...”

James 3: 15 – “Such “*wisdom*” does not come down from heaven but is *earthly, un-spiritual, of the devil.*”

- “*earthly*” – “*epigios*” which means literally “*human*”
“*man-made*”.
- “*unspiritual*” – “*psuchikos*” which means “*soulish*”
“*coming out of fleshly desires and passion*”.
- “*of the devil*” – “*diamoniodes*” which literally means
“*demonic*”.

3 THINGS ABOUT WISDOM

1. THE ROOT OF WISDOM

2. THE REALM OF WISDOM

James 3: 14 – “But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.”

EUGENE PETERSON:

“Whenever you are trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart, and everyone ends up at the others’ throats.”

James 3: 17 – “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

When true wisdom is operating,
people get along.

3 THINGS ABOUT WISDOM

1.THE ROOT OF WISDOM

2.THE REALM OF WISDOM

3.THE RESULT OF WISDOM

James 3: 16 – “For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”

James 3: 18 – “Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

“Are we peacemakers or
troublemakers?”

HOW TO GROW IN WISDOM?

1.COMMUNION WITH GOD

Proverbs 9: 10 – “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

1 Corinthians 1: 20 - 24 – “Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

HOW TO GROW IN WISDOM?

1.COMMUNION WITH GOD

2.COMPANIONSHIP WITH THE WISE

Proverbs 13: 20 – “He who walks with the wise grow wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.”

Proverbs 12: 15 - “The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.”

Proverbs 13: 14 – “The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.”

Proverbs 19: 20 – “Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.”

A wise old owl sat on an oak.
The more he saw, the less he spoke.
The less he spoke, the more he heard.
Let's all imitate that wise old bird.

HOW TO GROW IN WISDOM?

1.COMMUNION WITH GOD

2.COMPANIONSHIP WITH THE WISE

3.CONTEMPLATION WITHIN YOURSELF

DOROTHY SAYERS:

“Thinking is evidence of a
mind in love with God.”

"I saw, and I considered it, I looked, and I received instruction: a little sleep, a little slumber, and poverty will come upon you like a robber" (Proverbs 24: 30 - 34)

Philippians 4: 8 – “Finally, brothers,
whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever
is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,
whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent
or praiseworthy--think about such things.”

Proverbs 4: 7 – “Wisdom is supreme;
therefore, get wisdom. Whatever else you get,
get understanding.”

Proverbs 22: 11 – “He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the king will be his friend.”