

# HEAVENLY WISDOM

James 3:13-18

(All Scripture Quotations from NKJV Bible unless otherwise noted)

*“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 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. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (James 3:13-18)*

## WORLDLY WISDOM VERSUS HEAVENLY WISDOM

Demonic (James 3:14-16)	From Above (James 3:17-18)
Bitter Envy	Pure
Self-seeking	Peaceable
Selfish Ambition	Gentle
Earthly	Willing to Yield
Sensual	Full of Mercy and Good Fruits
Confusion	Without Partiality
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## HEAVENLY WISDOM IS PURE

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

*“Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a **pure** heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.” (1 Timothy 1:5-7)*

*“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a **pure** heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)*

## HEAVENLY WISDOM IS PURE

*“Since you have **purified** your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a **pure** heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever ...”  
(1 Peter 1:22-23)*

*“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the **pure** milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”  
(1 Peter 2:1-3)*

**HEAVENLY WISDOM IS PEACEABLE or PEACE-LOVING**

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

*“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live **peaceably** with all men.” (Romans 12:18)*

*“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and **peaceable** life in all godliness and reverence.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2)*

**HEAVENLY WISDOM IS PEACEABLE or PEACE-LOVING**

*“Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be **peaceable**, gentle, showing all humility to all men.” (Titus 3:1-2)*

*“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the **peaceable** fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:11)*

**HEAVENLY WISDOM IS GENTLE or CONSIDERATE**

*“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am **gentle** and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)*

*“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but **gentle**, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence ...” (1 Timothy 3:2-4)*

**HEAVENLY WISDOM IS GENTLE or CONSIDERATE**

*“Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, **gentle**, showing all humility to all men.” (Titus 3:1-2)*

*“Do not let your adornment be merely outward – arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel – rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a **gentle** and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.” (1 Peter 3:3-4)*

**HEAVENLY WISDOM IS WILLINGNESS TO YIELD**

The phrase “**willing to yield**” captures several ideas. From various translations:

- “easy to be entreated” ASV
- “easy to be intreated” KJV
- “open to reason” ESV and RSV
- “submissive” LSB and NIV
- “reasonable” NASB and NASB1995
- “accommodating” NET
- “compliant” CSB
- “obedient” CEB

The Greek word is *eupēithes* which means “ready to obey” (*eu*, “well;” *peithomai*, “to obey, to be persuaded”) – (“W.E. Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words”)

**HEAVENLY WISDOM IS WILLINGNESS TO YIELD**

*“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We **ought to obey God** rather than men’ ... ‘And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to **those who obey Him.**’” (Acts 5:29, 32)*

*“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **submitting to one another** in the fear of God.” (Ephesians 5:18-21)*

### HEAVENLY WISDOM IS WILLINGNESS TO YIELD

*“Obey those who rule over you, and **be submissive**, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” (Hebrews 13:17)*

*“Likewise you younger people, **submit yourselves** to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’” (1 Peter 5:5)*

### HEAVENLY WISDOM IS FULL OF MERCY AND GOOD FRUITS

*“Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7)*

*“Therefore bear **fruits worthy of repentance**, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.” (Luke 3:8)*

*“Therefore be **merciful**, just as your Father also is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)*

### HEAVENLY WISDOM IS FULL OF MERCY AND GOOD FRUITS

*“For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being **filled with the fruits of righteousness** which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:8-11)*

### HEAVENLY WISDOM IS WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR FAVORITISM

*“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who **shows no partiality** nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” (Deuteronomy 10:17-18)*

*“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God **shows no partiality**.’” (Acts 10:34)*

*“For there is **no partiality with God**.” (Romans 2:11)*

### HEAVENLY WISDOM IS WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR FAVORITISM

*“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with **partiality**. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ and say to the poor man, ‘You stand there,’ or, ‘Sit here at my footstool,’ have you not shown **partiality** among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?” (James 2:1-4)*

### HEAVENLY WISDOM IS SINCERE AND WITHOUT HYPOCRISY

*“**Hypocrites!** Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’” (Matthew 15:7-9)*

*“In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, ‘Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**.’” (Luke 12:1)*

### HEAVENLY WISDOM IS SINCERE AND WITHOUT HYPOCRISY

*“Let love be **without hypocrisy**. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.” (Romans 12:9-16)*

### PEACEMAKERS MUST SOW THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*“Now the **fruit of righteousness** is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (James 3:18)*

*“The wicked man does deceptive work, but **he who sows righteousness** will have a sure reward.” (Proverbs 11:18)*

*“The **work of righteousness** will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.” (Isaiah 32:17)*

*“**Sow for yourselves righteousness**; reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.” (Hosea 10:12)*

### PEACEMAKERS MUST SOW THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who **sows to the Spirit** will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” (Galatians 6:7-8)*

*“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being **filled with the fruits of righteousness** which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:9-11)*

### PEACEMAKERS MUST SOW THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For ‘He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; **Let him seek peace and pursue it**. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.’” (1 Peter 3:8-12)*

### WE CAN HAVE PEACE WITH GOD!

Jesus told his apostles to go make disciples, baptize them, then continue teaching them to obey His commands.

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

*“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him ...” (Hebrews 5:9)*

### WE MUST HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

*“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.” (John 6:44-45)*

*“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)*

### WE MUST BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17)*

*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)*

### WE MUST REPENT OF OUR SINS

*“I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)*

*“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30-31)*

### WE MUST CONFESS JESUS AS LORD

*“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33)*

*“Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’ Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’” (Acts 8:36-37)*

### WE MUST BE BAPTIZED IN WATER FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS

*“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 2:38)*

*“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’” (Mark 16:15-16)*

### WE MUST BE REMAIN FAITHFUL

*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:21-23)*

*“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)*

### HEAVENLY WISDOM LEADS TO SALVATION

Children of God are to be pursuing peace with each other, with others in the world as much as is possible, and with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

If you are not a child of God this morning, it is time for you to make peace with your Maker.

Believe and confess that Jesus is the Son of God, repent of your sins, and be baptized to wash them all away.

Being at peace with God will give you a rewarding life now and eternal life one day!