

JAMES: BUILDING A FAITH THAT WORKS

JAMES 3:13-18 | OCTOBER 12, 2025

PASTOR CAMERON CONTRESTANO

PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. **14** 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. **17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. **18** And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Breakfast

OCTOBER 25 | 7 AM - 1 PM

Church Picnic

OCTOBER 19 | 12:30 PM

Father Son Campout

NOVEMBER 7 - 8

Echo Weekend

NOVEMBER 21-23

Some events have registration requirements/deadlines, so be sure to check our website or app for more information and registration.

REFLECT/CONNECT

- What's the best piece of advice (serious or funny) you've ever received, and did you follow it?
- Who is someone you consider truly wise? What qualities or actions demonstrate their wisdom?

Use these questions to reflect privately in prayer, or journal, or to start a meaningful conversation in your Life Group.



GROW IN THE WORD

James says that those who are truly wise will show it through good conduct and deeds done in humility. He contrasts this with a kind of ungodly wisdom marked by bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. Wherever jealousy and selfish ambition are present, they lead to disorder and every kind of evil practice (v. 13-16).

- How does James describe true wisdom in these verses, and how does that connect with his earlier teaching about faith in chapter 2?
- Why does James specifically highlight "good behavior" and "gentleness" as demonstrations of wisdom, rather than knowledge? See also Proverbs 11:2; Matthew 11:29.
- What are the marks of earthly, natural, and demonic wisdom? How have you seen jealousy and selfish ambition create disorder and evil in your community?

James describes wisdom from above as pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. In contrast to earthly wisdom, this wisdom produces peace. Those who make peace sow in peace and reap a harvest of righteousness (v. 17-18).

- Why do you think James begins with purity when describing the qualities of wisdom from above? See also 1 Timothy 1:5; Matthew 5:8.
- Which of the qualities in verse 17 do you most long for God to grow in your life right now?
- In what relationship or situation is God calling you to pursue peace, rejecting selfish ambition or jealousy?



PRACTICE TOGETHER

- As a group, family, or with a friend, read through the list of qualities in James 3:17. Choose one to pray over and intentionally practice together this week.
- Look for one opportunity this week to "sow in peace", whether by resolving a conflict, speaking a gentle word, or encouraging harmony where there is tension.

This section provides an easy way to live out the truths of the passage in daily life, whether you're with your Life Group, family & friends, or on your own. These practices help turn reflection into relationship & action.

