

## Lesson 6

# GET GODLY WISDOM

Who is wise and understanding among you?  
(James 3:13)

Three things work together to pull us away from God and His service: the world, our fleshly desires, and the Devil. So many people are following the wisdom of this world. Listen to their advice—“Eat, drink, and be merry, for you only live once.” “Just do it.” “Enjoy yourself. You’re worth it.” “Get it. You deserve it.”

That’s not wisdom. It’s self-centeredness. The wisdom of the world appeals to the sensual part of man’s nature, and it’s selfish and devilish. Worldly wisdom is self-seeking and it boasts and lies against the truth of God.

### **READ JAMES 3:13-18: GOD’S WISDOM VERSUS WORLDLY WISDOM**

God will give His people wisdom—godly wisdom. To receive wisdom, you must choose God’s way and not the world’s ways. Having godly wisdom is essential when we are faced with trials and temptations.

1. How does one receive wisdom? Write James 3:13b.

Wisdom displays meekness. Meekness accepts God’s dealings as good. A meek person does not complain, dispute or resist their circumstances. A meek person wholly relies on God rather than on our own strength.

Meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God’s goodness and control over the situation. The meek person is not occupied with self at all. Meekness is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of the human will.

2. Write James 3:14-15.

3. What do envy and self-seeking lead to? Write James 3:16.

The wisdom of the world will ultimately lead to confusion. It leads a person to be envious of what others have, causing them to feel bitter and empty, and it pressures them to do evil.

4. Write James 4:1.

5. Write 1 Corinthians 3:3.

First Corinthians 3:3 uses the word *carnal*. This word means to be under the control of animal appetites or governed by mere human nature, not by the Spirit of God. It’s acting in a depraved or immoral manner. When we are carnal, we react and respond because of our selfish desires. Mature believers are in tune with God’s desires, and that should be our goal. If our own desires control us, this will stunt our spiritual growth.

6. Write 1 Corinthians 2:14.

**READ JAMES 3:17-18**

In this passage, James contrasts the world's wisdom with God's wisdom. Godly wisdom leads to a life of purity, holiness, and peace. The wisdom of the world leads to strife and wars and a life of sensuality, living after the lust of your flesh.

7. Write James 3:17.

8. Write James 3:18.

Godly wisdom is from above, pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits. There is no partiality with godly wisdom. The result is peace.

**READ MATTHEW 7:24-28**

9. How does Jesus say we can get this godly wisdom? Write Matthew 7:24.

To build *on the rock* means to be a person who hears and responds to God's Word. Practicing obedience to what God says in the Bible becomes the solid foundation to weather any storm of life.

10. What does Jesus say will happen to the wise man during trials and temptations? Write Matthew 7:25.

11. Write Matthew 7:26.

12. Write Matthew 7:27.

God wants us to live a life of peace. He does not want us to be at war with Him. Before coming to Jesus, we were all enemies of God because we lived selfishly rather than obeying God's Word. The desires of our flesh controlled us.

We were at war with God, and that put us at war with everybody else. But the wisdom that comes from God will bring peace—peace with God and peace with others.

When we know God's Word and do it, Jesus promises that when trials and temptations come, we will not fall. He will give us godly wisdom to help us through the storms.