

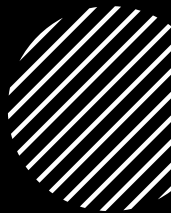
An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that snakes through a dense, snow-covered evergreen forest. The road has white lane markings and a small car is visible in the distance. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Wisdom from Above

James 3:13-18 | January 11, 2026



James 3 Review



James 3:1-13 discusses how the tongue can be used in two different ways.

James calls us to discern our wisdom in verses 3:13-18.

What is Wisdom?

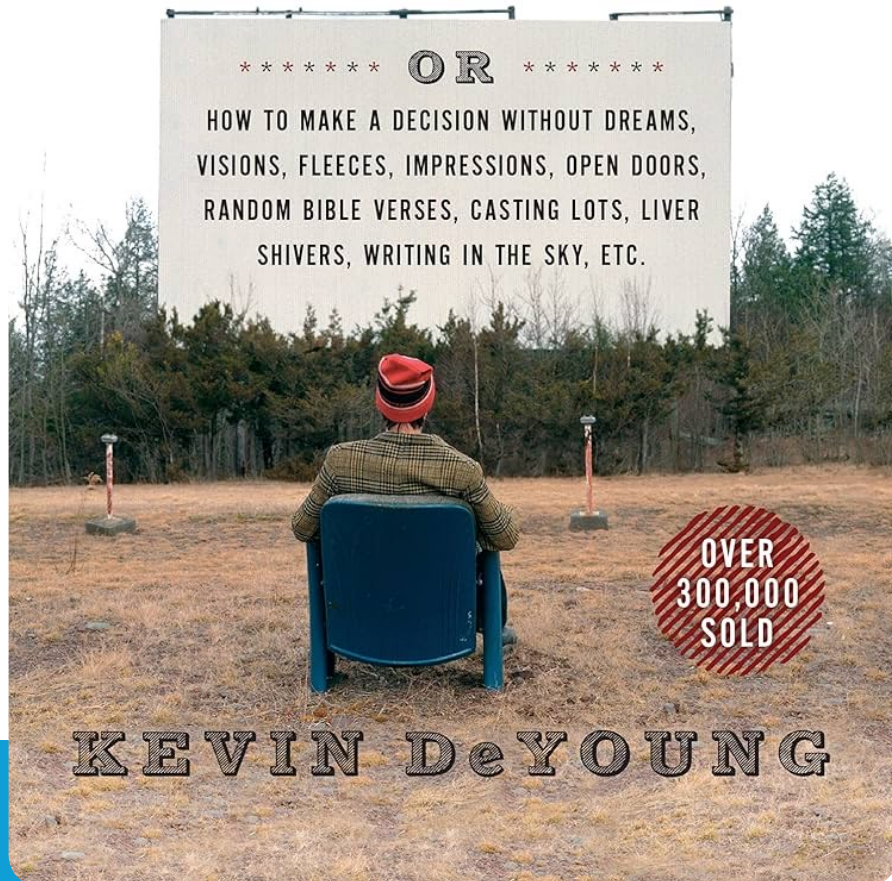
- "The ability to discern inner qualities and relationships (insight), a good sense (judgement), or generally accepted, (belief), or accumulated philosophical or scientific learning (knowledge)." - Merriam-Webster Dictionary
- Wisdom is NOT Knowledge.
- Knowledge is "information gained through experience."
- -Got questions.
- Wisdom is specifically discernment of such knowledge.
- -Got questions.

What are we discerning?

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- “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.” - James 4:13, NIV.
 - It does NOT say that we CAN'T make decisions of consequence in our lives.
 - It does NOT say that we cannot enjoy life.
 - Godly wisdom mostly does not lead to foreknowledge.

JUST DO SOMETHING

A LIBERATING APPROACH TO FINDING GOD'S WILL



"Just Do Something"

- If a choice between two items is not inherently sinful, there may be wisdom in either choice.
- We cannot sit there and paralyze ourselves with the uncertainty of a decision.
- It is how we respond to such decisions that matters.

What is our involvement?

We are to be involved with worldly ventures, yet represent Christ with humility.

We are to pursue relationships with people in the world, yet represent Christ with humility.

Living with humility can be significantly challenging.

Envy

- “But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth” - James 3:14, NIV.
- Phthonos- “Malicious ill-will or bitter displeasure at another’s success.”
"Destructive force"
- The power of the word “envy” is something that we take for granted.



What We Envy in 2026

- This list includes financial stability/home ownership
- Real-world experiences/authenticity
- Health and wellness
- Personal Skills and creativity
- Time and Flexibility
- Exclusive and niche status symbols (generally dealing with wealth, cars, properties, etc.)

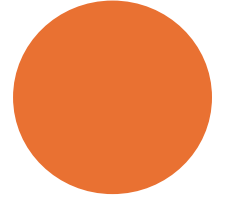


"Demonic" Wisdom

- “Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.” - James 3:15, NIV.
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We will not find God in envy and selfishness

- “For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.” - James 3:16, NIV.
- Grace-filled spiritual leaders:
 - King Solomon
 - Rich Mullins



Wisdom and Fruits of the Spirit



- "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," James 3:17. NIV
- Similarities between verse 17 and the fruits of the spirit:
- *Pure* is similar to self-control (Proverbs 25:28).
- *Peace-loving* is similar to peace and love (Colossians 3:15).
- *Considerate* - is similar to patience/forbearance (Galatians 6:9).



Peacemaking

- "Peacemakers who sow in peace
reap a harvest of righteousness,"
James 3:18, NIV

Wisdom Application Points

1. Pray/Read scripture (Matthew 4:4).
2. Be open-minded to love and serve others (1 Peter 4:10).
3. Community (1 Corinthians 12:12).
4. Seeking Help (1 John 1:9)
5. Be thankful and praise God (Psalms 100:4).

The Serenity Prayer

- “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace. Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that you will make all things right, if I surrender to your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with you forever in the next, amen!” -

Reinhold Niebuhr.