

Wisdom and Worldliness

Who wouldn't want to be considered a wise person? It's certainly a good quality to possess. Yet James gives us a strong warning to think seriously about the motivations and thoughts we harbor in our hearts and minds; he instructs us to consider our actions lest we find out what we think of as wisdom really isn't wisdom at all. Join us as we study James 3:13-4:12 to discover the source and definition of real wisdom. Then we'll look at the advice James gives for how we can live in the world, but resist embracing the empty wisdom of the world.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Who in your life do you consider wise? What have you observed about this person that has led you to conclude that they are wise?
- What do you already know about how the Bible defines and regards wisdom? Do you have particular questions regarding what the Bible says about wisdom or worldliness?



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READ

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- What are the markers of biblical wisdom or wisdom from heaven? What are the markers of earthly or worldly wisdom?
- Consider a recent life decision you made; what values guided that decision? Based on the Groundwork conversation in segment 2, are those values inspired by the world or by God? Write down some questions that will help you evaluate your motives and influences when it's time to make decisions. Think about and write down prompts that will help remind you to make decisions based on God's wisdom, not the world's wisdom.
- In segment 3, Dave Bast encourages us to counteract worldliness by increasing intimacy with God...make your plan! What are some small ways you can begin to strengthen and deepen your relationship with God? Who can hold you accountable?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Proverbs 9](#), [Psalm 111](#), [Philippians 2:1-11](#)

CONCLUSION

Challenge yourself to look for heavenly wisdom in everyday encounters and like Solomon in [2 Chronicles 1](#) or [1 Kings 3](#), boldly ask God to give you his wisdom. Consider joining St. Augustine in praying this prayer:

Look upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of thy brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of thy wisdom. All our desire is known unto thee, therefore perfect what thou hast begun, and what thy Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer. We seek thy face, turn thy face unto us and show us thy glory. Then shall our longing be satisfied, and our peace shall be perfect.

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