

## Today’s Sermon: **You Are Wiser Than You Think!**

James 1: 5-8; 1: 22-25; 3: 13-18

**Wisdom: “the careful application of knowledge to personal living”**

1. **You Have Wisdom, Either from Below or Above** (3: 13-18)
  - a. James makes a distinction
  - b. He contrasts characteristics  
*Wisdom from below is:*
    - Earthly*
    - Unspiritual*
    - Of the devil**Wisdom from above is:*
    - Pure*
    - Peace-loving*
    - Considerate*
    - Submissive*
    - Full of mercy and good fruit*
    - Impartial*
    - Sincere*
  - c. He lists outcomes  
*Wisdom from below ends in disorder and every evil practice*  
*Wisdom from above ends peace and righteousness*
2. **Your Natural “Default” Will Be Wisdom from Below**
3. **God Is More Than Willing to Give Us His Wisdom**
  - a. James 1: 5
  - b. Matthew 7: 7-11  
*Perhaps a picture of a person asking a question, looking for something, knocking at a door; and a father blessing his children*
4. **What Keeps Us From God’s Wisdom?**
  - a. Not asking (James 4: 2)
  - b. Disbelief (1: 6, 7)
  - c. Double mindedness (Pilgrim’s Progress – “Mr. Facing Both Ways”)  
*I will contrast God’s wisdom with earthly wisdom – Can you find pictures of Oprah, Dr. Phil, Donald Trump?*
  - d. Thinking that hearing and knowing is enough (1: 22-24)
  - e. Boasting about or denying your true method of dealing with life (3: 14)

5. **You Can Gain God's Wisdom, But It Takes Dedication**
- a. Ask God and believe He will give wisdom without holding grudges (1: 5)
  - b. Study the Word intently on a constant basis with expectation (1: 25)  
*Pic of someone studying the Word, making notes, etc.*
  - c. Do what it says (1: 22; Matthew 7: 24-27)  
*Pic of home falling into sinkhole and another home built on rock*