

James 3:13-18 New Living Translation

True Wisdom Comes from God

13 If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. **14** But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. **15** For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. **16** For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. **18** And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

James 4:1-10 New Living Translation

Drawing Close to God

4 What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? **2** You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. **3** And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

4 You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. **5** Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. **6** And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say,
"God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble."

7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. **9** Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

Questions:

1. Where does true wisdom come from?
2. What keeps us from living in true wisdom according to James 3:14-15?
3. "But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds..." James 3:17

If this wisdom is from above then how do you get it? Explain
4. Can you summarize what keeps you from finding peace with others and God in James 4: 4-6?
5. According to James 4:7-10 how can you find peace with God and others.

How does God help you to do this?