

PRESSURE POINTS: It “seems” wise & it “is” wise are far apart

Andy Deane · 10/06/2024 · James 3:13-18

It “seems” wise & it “is” wise are far apart, as far as heaven and earth: Isaiah 55:9, “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

James 3:13, *13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.*

How do we determine if a person is wise?

- Don't assume you're wise, reflect on James' question.
- Don't say you're wise, live wisely.
 - Hebrews 13:7, Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
 - Matthew 11:19, ...wisdom is proved right by her deeds.
- True wisdom is evident by its humble and meek manner of life.

What follows is a contrast of what kind of life will flow from two very different sources of wisdom.

James 3:14-16, *14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

A person that seems wise:

- Has these characteristics: bitter envy, selfish ambition, boastful.
- Has this source: earthly, unspiritual, demonic.
- Has this result: chaos, destruction, evil.

James 3:17-18, *17 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. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*

A person that is wise:

- Has this source: wisdom that comes from above (the Word of God filtered through the Son of God)
- Has these characteristics: pure, peaceful, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, good fruit, impartial, sincere.
- Has this result: will reap a harvest of righteousness.

How do we become a person who is wise?

- Who do you know that best resembles this wisdom that comes from above? Jesus!
 - Colossians 2:3, *Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
 - 1 Corinthians 1:24, *...Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*
 - So the more time we spend with Jesus, the more we'll become like him. How does that work out practically?
- Text “pyramid” to (951)425-4425 to read an article, buy a book, and optionally rsvp to discuss with Pastor Andy.
- *The Wisdom Pyramid* by Brett McCracken