



# WISDOM FROM ABOVE

WEEK 5 | JOHN REILLY

## James 3:13-18

*Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. Wisdom is not information.*

## We are drowning in information but thirsting for wisdom.

Knowing what's trending doesn't mean you know what is true.

## 2 Kinds of Wisdom:

**1 Earthly:** not always evil, always limited because it begins and ends with us. It can be practical, even strategic. But it's stuck here on earth.

- Earthly wisdom is **limited**.
- Earthly wisdom is **dangerous**. It traps us in a loop without ever finding rest.
- Earthly wisdom **always moves us more away from God**.
- King Solomon, the wisest man to have ever lived, stated:

## Ecclesiastes 12:11-13

*The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end,*

*and much study is a weariness of the flesh. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*

### **2 Timothy 3:7**

*... always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.*

**2 Heavenly:** not always evil, always limited because it begins and ends with us. It can be practical, even strategic. But it's stuck here on earth.

### **James 3:17**

*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.*

- **Pure:** holy, uncontaminated, not mixed with any ulterior motives, foundational, everything out flows from it, without purity wisdom becomes a tool for us –that's why it has to be first.
- **Peaceable:** bring peace with it
- **Gentle:** tremendous strength that is governed by love. It can press harder and argue more but chooses not to.
- **Open to Reason:** not defensive, not quick to take offense, teachable, willing to listen
- **Full of Mercy and Good Fruits:** mercy is always associated with action
- **Impartial:** wisdom doesn't play favorites, not swayed by status, race, wealth
- **Sincere:** heavenly wisdom doesn't wear a mask, saying one thing and doing another

**Wisdom isn't just about what you do but why you do it.**

### **Decision Making Grid**

**1** Is this decision I am about to make **grounded in reverence?**

### **Proverbs 9:10**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

### **Vernon McGee**

*This is God's universe, and God does things his way. You may have a better way, but you don't have a universe.*

**2** Is this decision I am about to make **saturated in the scriptures?**

**Psalm 119:97-103**

*Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

• **Dunkers vs Steepers**

- › Many of us are spiritually dry. It's not because we don't have truth, but because we don't sit with it.
- › Ask for God's wisdom, but steep while you wait.

**3** Is this decision I am about to make **confirmed by Godly council?**

**Proverbs 12:15**

*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.*

**4** In this decision I am about to make, is it **capable of bearing fruit?**

- Wisdom will always bear fruit, but it is not instant.

**5** Is this decision I am about to make **aimed at holiness or happiness?**

- Heart transformation over comfortability.

**God cares more about forming your heart than He does fixing your problems.**

**1 Corinthians 1:27,30**

*But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,*