

## James 3:13-18, Bible Devotions

### ☐ Monday - Wisdom that Works.

James 3:13

Would you count him wise who correctly forecasted torrential flooding and even warned others to build their house upon the rock, but did not heed his own advice and was swept away? No! Jesus said, "Everyone who hears these words of Mine, *and acts upon them*, may be compared to a wise man..." (Mt. 7:24). "Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his *deeds*..." (James 3:13). Actions speak louder than words and true wisdom, finds its expression in one's daily course of life and conduct.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:27

### ☐ Tuesday - The Sin that Deceived the Deceiver.

James 3:14-16

Ali boasted, "I am the greatest!" and *Sports Illustrated* agreed, crowning him "The greatest sportsman of the twentieth century." Sinatra sang, "I did it my way," and audiences swooned. Pride is now socially acceptable, even stylish. But concerning jealousy, selfish ambition, and arrogance (pride's wicked stepchildren), James 3 says: [1] They "lie against the truth" (v. 14), by deceiving the world that "self," not Christ, should be enthroned. [2] They are "demonic" (v. 15); they deformed "Lucifer" (lit. "shining one") into the prince of darkness (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:13-18), deceiving the Deceiver! [3] And they give birth to every other form of iniquity, "for where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing" (v. 16). Christian, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time" (1 Pet. 5:5-6).

Read Proverbs 11:2; 16:18; 29:23; Isaiah 2:11-12

### ☐ Wednesday - Wisdom from Above.

James 3:17

"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy" (James 3:17). Here is the litmus test of true wisdom! Let us measure our thinking, our attitudes and ideas, every decision, all our hopes and plans and dreams by this list.

Read Proverbs 8 & 9

### ☐ Thursday - Sow What?

James 3:18

Can one sow to the flesh and yet reap a harvest of righteousness? Here are two people: one enjoying God; the other, hypercritical, oversensitive, grumbling, without joy, distant, a loner, though perhaps a Christian much longer than the other. How can this be? The difference is in the sowing, "for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7). There is "seed whose fruit is righteousness" (James 3:18), and seed whose fruit is corruption (Gal 6:8). Dear Christian, what are you sowing? "The wicked earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness gets a true reward" (Prov. 11:18).

Read Isaiah 32:17; Hosea 10:12

### ☐ Friday - Sow a Thought.

James 3:18

Within the context of our passage "the *seed* whose fruit is righteousness" (James 3:18) are wise thoughts. If we sow wise thoughts (cf. v.17) we shall reap righteousness! Or as someone has said, "Sow a thought, reap an attitude; sow an attitude, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a destiny." So then, the result is righteous attitudes, righteous habits, yes, a righteous life!

Read Philippians 4:8

### ☐ Saturday - Peace-Makers

James 3:18

"And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:18). God has called His children, not just to be peace lovers, but peace *makers*. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Mt. 5:9).

Read Romans 12:18, 14:19; Psalm 34:11-14