



**Wisdom from Above (Part 1)**

**James 3:13-18**

# Introduction: Attributes of God

- **Omnipotence:** all-powerful; God's ability to do whatever is consistent with God's own character in bringing about the divine plan for creation. Example: demonstrated in God's overturning evil for good
- **Omnipresence:** everywhere at the same time; all things are present to God—there is nowhere in the universe that lies beyond the cognition (and care) of God
- **Aseity:** God's self-existence; He has eternally existed without any external or prior cause

# Introduction: Attributes of God

## “Understanding and Wisdom”

- **Omniscience:** all-knowing; God has direct cognition of everything in creation. God understands all things.
- **Omnisapience:** all-wise

# **From Our Semi-Annual Meeting (8/13/2023)**

## **Seeking God's Guidance**

- Proverbs 2:6 (ESV): For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

# I. An Overview of Wisdom (James 3:13)

- <sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

# Wisdom vs. Knowledge/Understanding

- “Wisdom involves more than merely having all facts at one’s disposal. It also involves knowing how to use those facts to accomplish ends in the best way. While knowledge, at least human knowledge, tends to be more theoretical, wisdom is more practical. For humans, knowledge is usually attained through books whereas wisdom is more often attained through experience.”

--John S. Feinberg, *No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God* (p. 320)

# Chart: “Knowledge” vs. “Wisdom”

Knowledge/Understanding	Wisdom
“ratio” (rational thought)	“intellectus” (intuitive thought)
Head knowledge	Heart knowledge
Information in isolation	Information in application
Acquired by observation	Acquired by reflection/meditation

# I. Overview of Wisdom (James 3:13a)

A. Knowledge vs. Wisdom

B. God's wisdom and:

1. His creation of Nature (Psalm 19:1-2)
2. His work of salvation (1 Cor. 1:18-25)
3. Human flourishing (Proverbs 2:6-10)
4. Our accomplishing practical tasks (Exodus 36:1-2, 8-9)
5. Our resisting sin (James 1:5, 12-14; 1 Cor.10:12-15)



# 1. God's Wisdom and the Creation of Nature

## (Psalm 19:1-2)

- The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above<sup>[a]</sup> proclaims his handiwork.  
<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.

## 2. God's Wisdom and the Work of Salvation (1 Cor. 1:18-25)

- <sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,
- “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
- <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach<sup>[b]</sup> to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

# 3. God's Wisdom and Human Flourishing (Proverbs 2:6-10)

- <sup>6</sup> For the LORD gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;  
<sup>7</sup> he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,  
<sup>8</sup> guarding the paths of justice  
and watching over the way of his saints.  
<sup>9</sup> Then you will understand righteousness and justice  
and equity, every good path;  
<sup>10</sup> for wisdom will come into your heart,  
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

## 4. God's Wisdom and Our Accomplishing Practical Tasks (Exodus 36:1-2, 8-9)

- **36** “Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded.”
- <sup>2</sup> And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. . . .
- <sup>8</sup> And all the craftsmen among the workmen made the tabernacle with ten curtains. They were made of fine twined linen and blue and purple and scarlet yarns, with cherubim skillfully worked. <sup>9</sup> The length of each curtain was twenty-eight cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits. All the curtains were the same size.

# 5. God's Wisdom and Our Resisting Sin (James 1:5, 12-14)

- <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. . . .
- <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

# 5. God's Wisdom and Our Resisting Sin (1 Corinthians 10:12-15)

- <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
- <sup>14</sup>Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup>I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.

# Let Us Pray

