

## **Earthly and Heavenly Wisdom, Part 2**

*John MacArthur*

### I. Introduction.

A. Text: James 3:13-14.

B. James speaks of two kinds of wisdom.

1. Demonic.

2. Heavenly.

C. The kinds of wisdom is a test of living faith.

D. The letter of James is filled with tests in order to uncover true faith.

E. The kind of wisdom that one manifests is revealed in behavior.

F. True wisdom is the evidence of salvation.

### II. Wisdom belongs to God. (Job 28:28)

A. It begins with the fear of the Lord.

B. It departs from iniquity.

### III. True wisdom is sought. (Psalm 1:19)

### IV. The Lord gives wisdom. (Proverbs 3:13; 4:5; 9:6)

### V. Wisdom is excellent. (Proverbs 8)

A. Those that possess true wisdom also possess salvation.

B. True wisdom demonstrates that one is saved.

C. Wisdom has to do with acting.

### VI. Fear of the Lord is the basic idea of wisdom. (Proverbs 1:7, 29; 2:5; 8:12; 9:10)

A. To know God and fear God are one and the same.

B. Wisdom is inseparably linked to fearing God. (Proverbs 15)

C. Fearing God is a reverential trust--this is another way of talking about saving faith. (Acts 10:22; 17:17)

### D. Wisdom is a lifestyle of trust that starts with saving faith. (Proverbs 10:27, 14:27; 19:23; 22:4)

### VII Wisdom is broken by disobedience. (Psalm 111:10)

A. We are committed to keeping God's commandments.

B. Saving faith is obedient faith.

C. The fear of the Lord is turning from evil and hating evil. (Job 28:28, Proverbs 8)

D. This is a healthy fear. (Deuteronomy 6; 8:6; 10:12; 4:13; 14:23; 17:19; 28:58; 31:12-13)

VIII. Wisdom is to be found with God and no one else. (Luke 11:39, Isaiah 11:2)

IX. Conclusion. Nothing is understood without the truth of God in life. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

**Application Questions:**

1. What are some modern examples of demonic wisdom and heavenly wisdom? Explain.

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2. How would you define the fear of God?

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3. How can the fear of God be saving?

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