

# Faith Alive!

*Wisdom From Below*

James 3:13-16

It's Character That Counts

*Faith Alive: Wisdom From Below - James 3:13-18*

## **Wisdom: Character That Counts**

### **Listening to the Truth:**

**Vs. 13** **Wisdom – yet another evidence of Faith Alive**

- **Valuing, seeking wisdom – ‘*wise and understanding*’**
  - Prov 4:1-8
  - Deut 1:13-15
  - I Sam 16:7

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## **Wisdom: Character That Counts**

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**Vs. 13** **Wisdom – yet another evidence of Faith Alive**

- **Valuing, seeking wisdom – ‘*wise and understanding*’**
- **Skill in living rightly – ‘*let him show it by his good life*’**
  - **Wisdom is not intellectual, but behavioral:  
knowledge applied to life**
  - **Skill in living the truly good life – life to the full (John 10:10)**

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- **Valuing, seeking wisdom – ‘*wise and understanding*’**
- **Skill in living rightly – ‘*let him show it by his good life*’**
- **Strength under control – ‘*the gentleness of wisdom*’**
  - **Meekness is not weakness!**
  - **The strength needed to be able to bridle your tongue, work hard, resist temptation, speak well of people, etc. etc. etc.!**
  - **The power that Jesus demonstrated in joyously submitting to the Father’s will and going to the cross...**

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## **Wisdom: Character That Counts**

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**Vs. 13** **Wisdom** – yet another evidence of Faith Alive

**Vs. 14-16** **So-called “Wisdom”** – i.e. *‘from below’*

- **Where it comes from (vs. 15)** – the world, flesh, devil
  - **Earthly** – limited to the here & now
  - **Unspiritual** – unconnected with God
  - **Demonic** – the ultimate source and power behind it all
- **What it leads to (vs. 14, 16)**
  - **Bitter envy** – harshness of spirit, “mean-spiritedness”
  - **Selfish ambition** – stepping on others to take care of yourself
  - **Disorder** – confused and tumultuous rebelliousness
  - **Evil of every kind** – foul deeds in general

## **Personal Reflection**