

Faith Alive!

Wisdom From Above

James 3:17-18

It's Still Character That Counts!

Faith Alive: Wisdom From Above - James 3:17-18

Wisdom: Character Counts!

Listening to the Truth:

Vs. 17a Wisdom – ‘from above’

- **Contrast with ‘from below’ wisdom**
 - Not knowledge, but skill in living the right way
 - Compare to Rom 1:21-32
- **Quality of life ‘from above’ experienced ‘down here,’ the presence and influence of God being lived out in our daily lives**
- **See also: Gal 5:22,23 and I Cor 13:4-7**

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Wisdom: Character Counts!

Listening to the Truth:

Vs. 17a Wisdom – ‘from above’

Vs. 17b The ‘fruit’ of godly wisdom...

- **Pure – spiritually free from fault, no ‘foreign’ elements**
 - The real thing, 100%, not partially good and partially bad
 - Undiluted devotion and true spirituality
 - Life according to the Designer’s design

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Vs. 17a Wisdom – ‘from above’

Vs. 17b The ‘fruit’ of godly wisdom...

- **Pure – spiritually free from fault, no ‘foreign’ elements**
- **Peace-loving – tranquil, free from strife and contention**
 - Eph 4:3; Rom 14:19; 12:18

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- **Pure – spiritually free from fault, no ‘foreign’ elements**
- **Peace-loving – tranquil, free from strife and contention**
- **Considerate – gentle, equitable**
 - **Knowing when & how to make allowances for weakness**
 - **Knowing when to be tough/rigid and when to be soft**
 - **See II Tim 2:23-26 and John 8:1-11**

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- **Pure – spiritually free from fault, no ‘foreign’ elements**
- **Peace-loving – tranquil, free from strife and contention**
- **Considerate – gentle, equitable**
- **Compliant – reasonable, able to listen and change**
 - **Not from inner weakness, but from inner strength**
 - **Coachable - teachable**

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- **Considerate – gentle, equitable**
- **Compliant – reasonable, able to listen and change**
- **Full of mercy and good fruit – compassionate action**
- **Impartial, unwavering**
 - **Not constantly vacillating (see Eph 4:14)**
 - **The righteous counterpoint to ‘compliant’**

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- **Compliant – reasonable, able to listen and change**
- **Full of mercy and good fruit – compassionate action**
- **Impartial, unwavering**
- **Sincere – without hypocrisy**
 - **Authentic, ‘What you see is what you get,’
no make-up!**

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Vs. 18 The harvest: the right kind of life

Reflection & Application