**Authentic** *(Series Graphic)*

**Bench Test of the Believer**—James 1:1-18

**The Perfect Mirror**—James 1:19-27

**Me? Prejudice?** —James 2:1-13

**Dying Faith** –James 2:14-26

**One Small Spark**—James 3:1-12

**Wisdom from Above and Below**

(James 3:13)

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them **show it** by their **good life**, by **deeds** done in **humility** that comes from wisdom.”

1. Wisdom is **behavior**.

Knowledge is **knowing**. Wisdom is **doing**.

Knowledge is **education**. Wisdom is **application**.

Wisdom is not measured by **degrees** but by **deeds**.

(Ephesians 5:15-17)

"Be very careful, then, **how you live**—not as unwise but as **wise**, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

(James 3:14-15)

“But if you harbor **bitter envy** and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is **earthly**, **unspiritual**, **demonic**.”

**Wisdom from Below:**

Characterized by jealousy, selfish ambition, and arrogance.

(James 3:16)

“For where you have **envy** and **selfish ambition**, there you find **disorder** and **every evil practice**.”

(James 3:17)

“But the **wisdom that comes from heaven** is first of all pure, then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

1. Wisdom is **Gracious**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wisdom from above** | **Wisdom from below** |
| Humble | Arrogant  |
| Pure  | Corrupt |
| Peaceful | Defensive |
| Considerate | Rude |
| Logical | Irrational  |
| Merciful | Harsh |
| Impartial | Has an agenda |
| Authentic | Dishonest  |

(James 3:18)

“Peacemakers who **sow in peace** reap a harvest of righteousness.”

1. Wisdom is **Peaceable**.

As we **grow in wisdom,** we become **instruments** of God’s peace in the world.

(Proverbs 4:7)

"The beginning of wisdom is this: **Get wisdom**. Though it **cost** all you have, get understanding."

(James 1:5)

“If any on you **lack** wisdom, you should **ask God**, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it **will** be given to you.”

(Proverbs 9:10)

"The fear of the LORD is the **beginning of wisdom**, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."