

James: Faith That Works: Wisdom & Conflict

Day 1

The Root

Scripture tells us that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, but why is this so? To understand, imagine that each of your body parts could think and act independently. Imagine that your hand could decide to stop paying attention to your brain, or could decide to cut itself off from the oxygen the lungs provide. No matter how "smart" the body part would claim to be, these actions would be foolish because they cut the hand off from the rest of the body that was needed for healthy and productive functioning. In this analogy, the head is God and we humans are the body parts. Our failure to listen to and respect the head is the key that begins useful integration to the body. For more on this, check out this devotional:

<https://www.truthforlife.org/devotionals/alistair-begg/9/28/2025/>

Verses: John 6:35, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 5:15-16

Prayer Topics: Life, Joy, Unity

Day 2

Relational

Wisdom sees its highest form in relationship. Although the bible will sometimes refer to skill in various fields of work as wisdom, the phrase finds its true fulfillment when applied to how we interact with God and others. Wisdom does not stand alone, but works in concert with other qualities to produce fruitful relationships. To find out more about this, check out this great article:

<https://www.biblicalcounselingcoalition.org/2025/02/10/learning-relational-wisdom-in-conflict-using-james-317-18/>

Verses: Ecclesiastes 4:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Proverbs 27:17

Prayer Topics: Exchange, Abundance, Integrity

Day 3

Wise Fighting

The Kingdom of God is a hierarchy because it is a kingdom. This is very important to understand if you want to have wisdom in conflict. The different parts of a body work well together when they are directed by the head and when they fulfill their purposes as directed by the head. To return to the kingdom metaphor, the kingdom cannot stand if it is divided against itself. If a governor of a province aligns himself against the king, bad things will happen for the whole kingdom. The governor is not supposed to pursue his own desires, but instead he must pursue the desires of the king. If he finds himself in a fight with the king he is wrong, always. He can never win an argument with the king, and can never hope to prevail in a conflict with the king. The only conflict that is wise for him to engage in is a conflict with those things that are in his area of responsibility that are in conflict with the king's wishes. That is his whole role and purpose, to carry out the king's desires in his area of authority and to deal with any conflicts that may arise to the king's wishes in that area. In the same way, it is never a wise idea to spend his energy on conflicts that are outside his area of authority, for that wastes his energy on things the king has given to someone else, and that always comes at the expense of engaging in the conflicts that are those his king desires him to engage in. We must, as the heavenly host, be wise in our conflicts. To see some examples of this, check out this article:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/how-to-win-a-fight>

Verses: 1 Corinthians 11:3, Jude 1:6, 1 Peter 2:18

Prayer Topics: Submission, Responsibility, Peace

Day 4

Certainty

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”- John 16:33

Conflict is a certainty. Why is this the case? God's priority is not comfort but goodness, and because we are sinful that sin must be confronted. How does God confront that sin? In numerous ways, like our circumstances and failures. More than any other way, God confronts our sin through other people, and that means he will use us for the betterment of others just as he uses them for the betterment of us. Check out this great article to learn more:

<https://www.wisdomhunters.com/deeper-love-can-grow-from-conflict/>

Verses: James 4:1-2, Matthew 18:15-17, Matthew 5:24

Prayer Topics: Truth, Love, Righteousness

Day 5

Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today

Many people who claim to be Christians never experience the fullness nor reality of God even though they may attend church because of never taking the time to allow the Holy Spirit to write God's will upon their heart to develop them so they can be presented mature in Christ Jesus. When we don't allow the Holy Spirit to write God's will on our hearts we never be the effective witnesses God creates His children to be in and through Christ Jesus. People are looking for signs and wonders and the fact of the matter is that we who are called by His name are the signs and wonders people are really looking for because there should be a noticeable difference in our lives when we take Christ Jesus's yoke upon us and learn of Him. While Jesus was here on earth He learned obedience and He grew with more wisdom, stature because of His dependence and desire to be obedient to God and as a result of His willingness to learn obedience God gave Jesus favor with Himself and man, Luke 2:51-52. If you want to see change in the human condition instead of complaining about the chaos and wickedness allow God through the Holy Spirit to transform you by the renewing of your mind. We are totally dependent on God and interdependent with each other whereas God isn't dependent on man. There should be an urgency in us because time isn't our friend outside of Christ Jesus only in Him does time become our friend because there's a

difference between time and eternity. Time is enclosed in and surrounded by eternity because God is eternal therefore time can't measure eternity because time has boundaries within eternity. The time God gives us is a gift from Him that gives us the opportunity to learn of Him by sitting at His feet so He can develop us into agents of change which glorifies and honors Him as He works His will freely in us giving us the capacity to lead our brothers and sisters outside of Him to Him so He can teach us His way by transforming us by the renewing of our mind. Within the African American Religious Tradition there's a song that's sung called "Only What You Do For Christ Will Last." The song talks about man having the ability to do great things, however, if what you're doing doesn't lift people up for them to see their need for being in relationship with God in and through Christ Jesus then you wasted your life and time. God must be visible in the life He has given us and we must be unapologetic about loving and being totally dependent on Him trusting Him to present us mature in Christ Jesus.