

We have tongues with which to teach and tongues with which to bless others and God. But those same tongues can also curse and lie. Who can control their tongue? The blessed Lord Jesus did. The tongue of the unsaved brings forth what is in the unsaved heart. The tongue of the believer brings forth what is in the believer's heart. But our ears tell us the believer still has an old wicked nature sharing his body – and tongue. Paul tells us more about that, and the way to victory over the flesh, in Romans 5 - 8. James simply looks at the end results in our daily lives. Too often, Confusion!

What is behind the tongue. Even seeming rough, ignorant, lawless men pride themselves in their **wisdom**. They demand their one vote in each election (and some may in the end make wiser choices than the more sophisticated who despise them). But neither have the wisdom that is from above unless they have Christ. Am I wise? Am I knowledgeable? Let my wisdom and knowledge show in my works, my life, my speech. Let meekness of wisdom, not prideful wisdom, characterize our lives. Read 1Corinthians 1:17 - 31; & ch. 2 & 3.

We lie against the truth that has saved us if we entertain bitter envying and strife in our hearts. What is in our hearts comes out in our words, attitude and actions. Do we contradict our confession of Christ as our Savior and Lord or do we honor Him? Envying and strife produce confusion and every conceivable evil work. They flow from the wisdom that is not from above. A “wisdom” that is earthly, sensual, devilish. The “earthly” suiting the bodily demands, the “sensual” suiting the soul's lustful desires and the “devilish” suiting the perverse, unclean, deceptive, naturally evil spirit of each human being. Thank God there is a wisdom that is from above which we as believers can receive, respond to and live out. Wisdom that far surpasses the natural “wisdom” we humans come equipped with. Godly wisdom that can be shown forth in our lives to the glory of God. Wisdom like God. Wisdom of God. What a wonderful thing it is!

1. First off it is pure,  
then
2. peaceable, peace-loving, peaceful;
3. gentle, submissive (approachable);
4. easy to be entreated, yielding, reasonable;
5. full of mercy and good fruits, full of kindness and good fruits;
6. without partiality, unquestioning, unwavering,  
uncontentious;
- and
7. without hypocrisy, unfeigned, sincere, true.

How like God! He is, first of all, Holy. His being holy is simply because God is Love. Love cleanses, protects and blesses loved ones. He does not tempt people to sin, James 1:13. Though He is Almighty He is not selfish,

overbearing, vengeful, remote like most men who find themselves in powerful positions. The world says “power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” The Eternal God has infinite power (omnipotence) knowing (omniscience) and Wisdom. But He is Good. He is approachable, full of mercy, impartial when blessing, disciplining or judging, and genuinely true. God can be trusted, and calls for our faith, trust, and trustworthiness. We are to be like Him! We can be like that! See Galatians 2:20

Wisdom is an overarching theme of the Scriptures. It comes from God and is given freely and liberally to all who ask, James 1:5. Any who ask at any age, and in any age. Adam and Eve were originally created to live in simple fellowship with the One who had created them and blessed them. Adam was given only one commandment to observe – a commandment that simply, symbolically, established His Creator as his superior and God. Adam in his human wisdom chose to disobey and thereby make himself god. (But really Satan became his god and ruler because he submitted to Satan's suggestion to disobey that one command.) The point is that in the beginning there was no law instituted for Mankind to live by. They were to live by **wisdom** while walking with God. He didn't tell them what to have for lunch each day, or when or where to eat or sleep, or what or do in maintaining the garden where they lived. They lived by wisdom. But Man sinned and was put out of the garden of paradise to fare on his own in a now hostile sin cursed earth. Still, no laws were given, so none were disobeyed, Romans 5:13,14. Man still lived by wisdom, either that from his own corrupted heart or that received from God. That from God which, as James advises us, He delights to reward those who ask. Abel brought a sacrifice the wisdom of faith told him would be pleasing to God. Cain through his own wisdom brought something that fell far short of the wisdom of God. So things have gone down through the ages of God's endurance and patient dealing with mankind. He revealed more and more to Man, first verbally as to Enoch, Noah, Abram, Job and Moses. Then He began preserving His spoken words in the inspired scriptures beginning with Moses and through the prophets. Then in Person through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, and His apostles and prophets (including James). So today the believer is no longer under the Law of Moses but back living by faith and wisdom while walking with God. But now we have access to an inexhaustible body of inspired Holy Scriptures full of the wisdom of God and His Plan, His Ways, His Grace. And in them we know the future as well.

So we have in our hands wisdom. The intimate knowledge of God, past, present and future, revealed and interpreted for us by the indwelling Spirit who wrote them. We observe the commandments of the One we love because

we love Him. That which is given us in the scriptures provides a wonderful basis for wise decision making in the will of God for those who have presented their bodies to God a living sacrifice, Romans 12:1-2. So we are promised wisdom for decisions in the routine circumstances and extraordinary situations of life, if we ask. We can ask every morning for wisdom for that day. What to eat, what to wear, how to do our job or school work, routine purchases, etc. And when confronted with something more consequential we can ask again, specifically, right then. And ask more than once when we think we need to. 2Corinthians 12:8,9. But let us ask in faith, and not with a double mind, James 1:5 - 8.

Scripture speaks of wisdom in great detail and in broad outlines in every age, and every circumstance. The word wisdom is found in 222 verses in the Bible. Men known for their wisdom include Joseph, Moses, Solomon, and Daniel. Solomon asked God for it and is called the wisest man. His books are full of wisdom, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs, even though his life was not always. In Proverbs 8 the Lord is portrayed as wisdom personified. So we can bring the wisdom asked of God, the wisdom that is from above, to our daily lives at home, at school or work and at play. What a joy.

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***But [the] fruit of righteousness in peace  
is sown for them that make peace. James 3:18 (JND)***

The fruit of wisdom is Righteousness. Righteousness in peace is the fruit that results from sowing peace. Making peace. A righteous **person** is at peace with God, but sinful man cannot attain righteousness before a holy God on his own. Each must be justified by a holy substitute. God provides righteousness to us by faith in the shed blood of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

*3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

*3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*

*4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath*

*whereof to glory; but not before God.*

*5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

*5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

Righteousness **among righteous people** results in peace among them. Unrighteous acts disrupt peace. Christ's righteousness makes peace possible among all of His own, for we now have the spiritual capacity to live righteously.

*Psalm 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

*Isaiah 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.*

*Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross*

*Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: {thereby: or, in himself} 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh*

*Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

*Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

And many more.

Paul was clearly in step with James, though he had received his ministry directly from the Lord, not James, Galatians 1:29.

By Ron Canner, August 27, 2008