

STUDY 7. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. **Who do you regard as a wise person?** What are their characteristics that make you think they are wise?
2. **See Proverbs 6:6, 9:8, 9:9, 13:30, 14:16, 15:20, 17:28.**
These verses from Proverbs describe wisdom. Which one do you appreciate most?
3. **Read James 1:5-8. How do you think people become wise?**
 - a. i. Growing old and becoming mature? ii. Just born that way?
 - iii. It is a personality factor? iv. Learning to reflect on what happens in life?
 - v. Reading and listening?
 - b. In these verses what dimension does James add to the “gaining of wisdom?”
4. Do you pray for wisdom in general or seek guidance for specific issues? How has God answered that prayer?
5. Indirectly James associates doubting and being “double minded”, with a lack of wisdom.
 - a. Are you a doubter?
 - b. Do you see it as evil?
 - c. Has it helped you grow in faith, or has it destroyed faith?
 - d. In the above passage, how is doubt/faith associated with wisdom?
6. Do you remember what being “double minded” means? Are you ever like that?
What has “double minded” got to do with wisdom?
7. How would you respond to the following comment?
“Is it possible to be any thing else than double minded? Surely we live in the real world and try to be spiritually wise at the same time!”
8. **See verse 6.** Unstable - “tossed by the wind.”
 - a. Is that ever a description of you? Do you see yourself as a ‘Steady Eddy’ or as sometimes unstable?
 - b. How is instability a contrast to James’ understanding of wisdom?
9. **Read James 3:13-18.**
 - a. What is the difference between cunning and wisdom? How does this difference come out in this passage?
 - b. Does the image of the grey bearded sage, living on a mountain and spending time in meditation and reflection, fit in with James’ idea of wisdom?
10. **James condemns envy.** How are the qualities of wisdom and envy incompatible?
11. **James also has something negative to say about ambition.**
 - a. Is it wrong for us to be ambitious about our church, our jobs, our families, our qualifications?
 - b. Are you ambitious?
 - c. Would you describe your ambitions as godly or ungodly?
12. How does the phrase, “If there is confusion at the core there is chaos on the fringe,” apply to this passage?
13. **See James 3:17.**
 - a. How do you score on the qualities of wisdom that are mentioned in this verse? Which quality would be the greatest challenge for you? Why?
 - b. How do you understand “willing to yield”? Is that you?
 - c. Do you see any similarity to the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-10?
14. **Overall, how would you define wisdom in the letter of James?**
15. **In this series on Christian Living we have looked at the issues of:**
*Faith, Anger – Helpful and Unhelpful, Dangers and Blessings of the Tongue
Poverty, How to Handle Temptation, Suffering and Wisdom.*
 - a. Which of these has been the greatest challenge for you?
 - b. Which one has been least relevant to you?
 - c. Which of these do you think would have been most relevant for your work mates? Your family? Your friends? Your church?
 - d. Overall what are your thoughts about the series?