

## A GOOD LIFE

### JAMES 3:13-18

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: In the last lesson, you saw how the Holy Spirit enables you to have a controlled tongue. Here you see what it takes to have a good life.

**HAS GOD'S WISDOM** that is given to the humble. Humility is “the esteeming of ourselves, small, inasmuch as we are so, the correct estimate of ourselves.” Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, #5012. It is a realization of our “unworthiness to receive God’s grace.” Zodhiates. When you daily humble yourself before God, you have the promise of God’s wisdom and understanding and His life being manifested through your life. (**James 3:13, fn 3:13-18, I Peter 5:5-7, fn 5:6, fn 5:7, II Corinthians 12:7-10, fn 12:10, Philippians 4:13, fn 4:13, Luke 18:9-14, fn 8:11-14**) *What is necessary for you to daily appropriate God’s wisdom?*

**HAS UNSELFISH WISDOM.** No matter the economic level that you find yourself in, each of us has a capacity for selfish ambition, bitterness, envy, and jealousy. All of us have a “throne” in our lives. Jesus cannot be on the throne of your life if you are in a state of selfish magnification. (**James 3:14-16, fn 3:14, 15, Hebrews 12:14, 15, fn 12:15, Romans 6:6-19, fn 6:11, fn 6:13, fn 6:17**) *Who is on the “throne” of your life?*

**HAS GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.** “Both Hebrews and James allude to righteousness in the sense of the gift of God on condition of faith (Heb. 11:7; James 2:23), but both these epistles generally speak of it as that good life which the Christian loves and seeks...in the N.T. righteousness is presented in two ways: (1) as a quality of God’s nature and action, and (2) as the character which God requires of man. What God requires is grounded in what God is.” Zodhiates, #1343. When you, by faith, live controlled by the Holy Spirit, you enjoy God’s righteousness and wisdom from above. (**James 3:17, 18, Hebrews 11:6, Romans 3:21, 22, Romans 4:5, Romans 4:23-5:2, fn 4:25 Colossians 3:5-12, fn 3:10, II Timothy 2:22, fn 2:22**) *How is it that when you pursue righteousness, you are really pursuing Jesus Christ and a good life?*

*Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord? Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?*