

## SERMON STUDY NOTES

14<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Speaker: Martin Armstrong

### Wisdom Creativity Vision and Character: James 3:17

1. Much of the 'wisdom' in Old Testament times was creative expression (1 Kings 10, Prov 8:31, Ex 28:3, Ex 31:3-5)  
Give some examples of this.
2. How could we use creative means today to advance the Kingdom and give God glory?
3. James 1:5 says all we have to do is ask for wisdom. So how do we access this!
4. When we ask, we must believe and not doubt, because when we doubt we are like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. The word "doubt" means to "argue with yourself." What sorts of doubts do you have that stop you from moving forward and hearing God?
5. True wisdom begins with God. Proverbs 1:7 tells us that the "fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." If a person does not know the God who created all things, who revealed truth, and established absolute values, that person cannot be wise. Discuss

6. If we don't have faith we're 'like a wave of the sea'. Our actions are determined by whims. Today we think one thing, tomorrow another. These people go in whatever direction the wind is blowing. Can you give some examples of people who are always changing their mind about things and are never happy?
  
7. On a day when there is no wind and the sea is calm, these people are OK - in a good mood, at peace with themselves. They think everything's all right spiritually. But when the wind gets up they'll soon fall to pieces. Give some examples of the winds that come our way.
  
8. Single-minded Christians are those who are in control. They set their affections on things above - Jesus is Lord as well as Saviour. These people receive freely the wisdom of God. Are you like this? Can some people share a testimony of when this happened to you and what difference took place?
  
9. **James 3.17** The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere. (*Pure, peace loving, teachable, transparent, gentle, impartial, merciful PPTT GIM*). If you are truly a wise and Godly person you will fulfil all of the above criteria. Discuss

10. How we respond to trials & how we respond to temptation, will determine whether we can qualify for the awesome wisdom that is available. If we trust and rest in God throughout the trial, then He will give us wisdom as to why we are going through the trial and how we can deal with the difficulties. Can someone share a testimony on this?
  
11. When I was a child my dad would always buy a box of fresh crisp apples. We always had to use up the old apples before we could get the new apples. This often meant that reluctantly ate the old apples while the new ones went soft. There is an amazing life available to us when we give everything to God and tap into his wisdom. Why do people keep putting this off?