"Jealous Man, Jealous God, and the Battle Within"

Wisdom Literature August 17, 2025

James 3:13-18; 4:1-7

The Epistle of James, the half-brother of our Lord Jesus, is the New Testament's contribution to wisdom literature. It is considered to be the Proverbs of the New Testament with pithy statements into the practical and interpersonal lives of Holy Spirit filled, Christ followers.

James 3:13-18; 4:1-8 see screen

Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

Prov. 1:7 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

The Wisdom of the One Who is Actively NOT Fearing God

James 3:14 *But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.*

Human Jealousy: *a negative, earthly, unspiritual, demonic emotion (James 3:15) rooted in fear and insecurity, manifesting as hostility toward and/or a desire to undermine another or others. A divisive spirit that creates chaos and disorder.* **Envy,** *on the other hand, is coveting something(s) or someone(s) another person possesses that you do not, or someone else's experience that you have not experienced.*

- **Bitter:** (Gk. *pikros*) *sharp, pungent, irritatingly strong.*
- **Jealousy/Envy:** (Gk. zelos) *fervent, indignation, zeal against an enemy; from Gk. zeo: to be hot (boil, of liquids; or glow, of solids)* **Strong's Concordance**
- **Selfish ambition:** (Gk: *eritheia*) *a destructive desire for personal prominence, power, and personal gain at the expense of others and God's will.* **AI generated**

James 3:15-16 *15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.* ***(Knowing this, Sherlock, what do you think…*** **James 4:1** *1What* ***…causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?*** *Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2You desire and do not have, so you MURDER….*

Matt. 5: 21-24 *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.*

James 4:2b-4 *You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people, do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

Galatians 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and*

things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do (make a practice of) such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Wisdom of the Believer Who is Actively Fearing God

James 3:13,17-18; 4:7-8 *Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.* [17] *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.* [18] *And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* [25] *If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.* ***26*** *Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

The God glorifying and overwhelmingly conquering results of we who are "RAW'ing"/loving God is that we are keeping in step with the Spirit and being continually filled with the Spirit. The Result: We're not submitting ourselves to the works of the flesh.

James 4:7-8 [7] *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* [8] *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.*

Wisdom Applied Wins the War Within!

- It helps to know what team/side you are on when you're in a battle.

According to the Bible we are now new Creations in Christ, holy and blameless in God's sight, the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus; alive in Christ; dead to sin; of God's household; citizens of heaven; united with the Father and the Son; one with God; more than conquerors; overcomers; temples of the Holy Spirit; children(born) of God; fully and forever forgiven; seated with Christ in the heavenly realms; sealed with the Holy Spirit. God did that! Believing it's true, we act like it's true!

SIXTY times in the ESV NT God addresses us as saints, holy ones (Gk hagios).

Galatians 5:16-17 *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

- Even the Apostle Paul, the number one "freed (from sin) agency" signing by God, lived LUTS, and had trouble himself remembering his new identity in Christ.

Romans 7:16-25 *For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.* [16] *Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.* [17] *So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.* [18] *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.* [19] *For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.* [20] *Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.* [21] *So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.* [22] *For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,* [23] *but I see in my members another law*

waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. [24] Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? [25] Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Question: Does Paul allow his LUTS moments of sinful failure define him???
Next Question: Do you allow your LUTS sinful moments to define you? Or do you agree with the God who sent His Son to give His life for you and to you to define you? (What do you really believe...REALLY?!)

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life **has set you free** in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

Romans 8:37 *No, in all these things **(accusations, condemnations, temptations, oppositions)** we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

1 John 4:4 [4] *Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. [4] For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. [5] We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ…*



The Only and All Wise God Yearns Jealously For His Own

Multiple Old Testament passages declare that God is not only jealous (Deut.6:14, etc.) but that his name is Jealous (Exodus 34:14); This emphasis by God of Him being a jealous God is found in each section of the Tenakh (OT); the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings.

James 4:5 *Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit (Spirit-NASB) that he has made to dwell in us"?*

1 Corinthians 6:17 *But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit (with him).*

John 17:20-21 *"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, [21] that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."*

...and He's "never NOT" yearned jealously for the spirit/Spirit that he has made to dwell in us. His affection for us is eternal. Unchanging. God's jealousy for us is for the glorifying of Himself in and through us, His bride.

Rev.13:8 *and all who dwell on earth will worship it (the beast), everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*

Jeremiah 31:3b *I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, with lovingkindness* (Heb.=>*chesed*) *have I continued my faithfulness to you.*

Rom. 5:8 *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Psalm 136:1-3 *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. (26 verses, 26 times!)*

Awakening To This Wonderous, Jealous Love!

1 John 3:1 *See (Behold, NASB) what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.* [2] *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

Ephesians 1:17-19 *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,* [18] *having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,* [19] *and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might…*

Romans 11:33 *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

Perhaps the most famous sermon ever delivered in the historic pulpit of the Tron Church in Glasgow was Thomas Chalmer's "The Expulsive Power of a New Affection." In it he argued that nobody can "dispossess the heart of an old affection, but by the expulsive power of a new one." His point was that we cannot simply will ourselves to love God more; the love of sin can be expelled only by the love of God, Chalmers could have been speaking of fear, for the filial fear of God is the soul of godliness and the essence of the new life implanted by the Spirit. It is the ultimate affection and the very aroma of heaven. It is the affection that expels spiritual lethargy. To grow in this sweet and quaking wonder at God is to taste heaven now.

Michael Reeves, Rejoice and Tremble, Page 168