



Our Desperate Need For

WISDOM *from* ABOVE

James 3:13-18

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James 3:13–18 (NKJV)

¹³ Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.

¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic.

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James 3:13–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking *exist*,
confusion and every evil thing *are* there. ¹⁷ But
the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then
peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy
and good fruits, without partiality and without
hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is
sown in peace by those who make peace.

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⁷ The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of knowledge, *But* fools despise wisdom and instruction.
— Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV)

- ◆ The importance, source, and value of godly wisdom is explained in Proverbs 1-4.

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Proverbs 2:6 (NKJV)

⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding;

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— Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV)

❖ The importance, source, and value of godly wisdom is explained in Proverbs 1-4.

Proverbs 4:5–7 (NKJV)

⁵ Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. ⁷ Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

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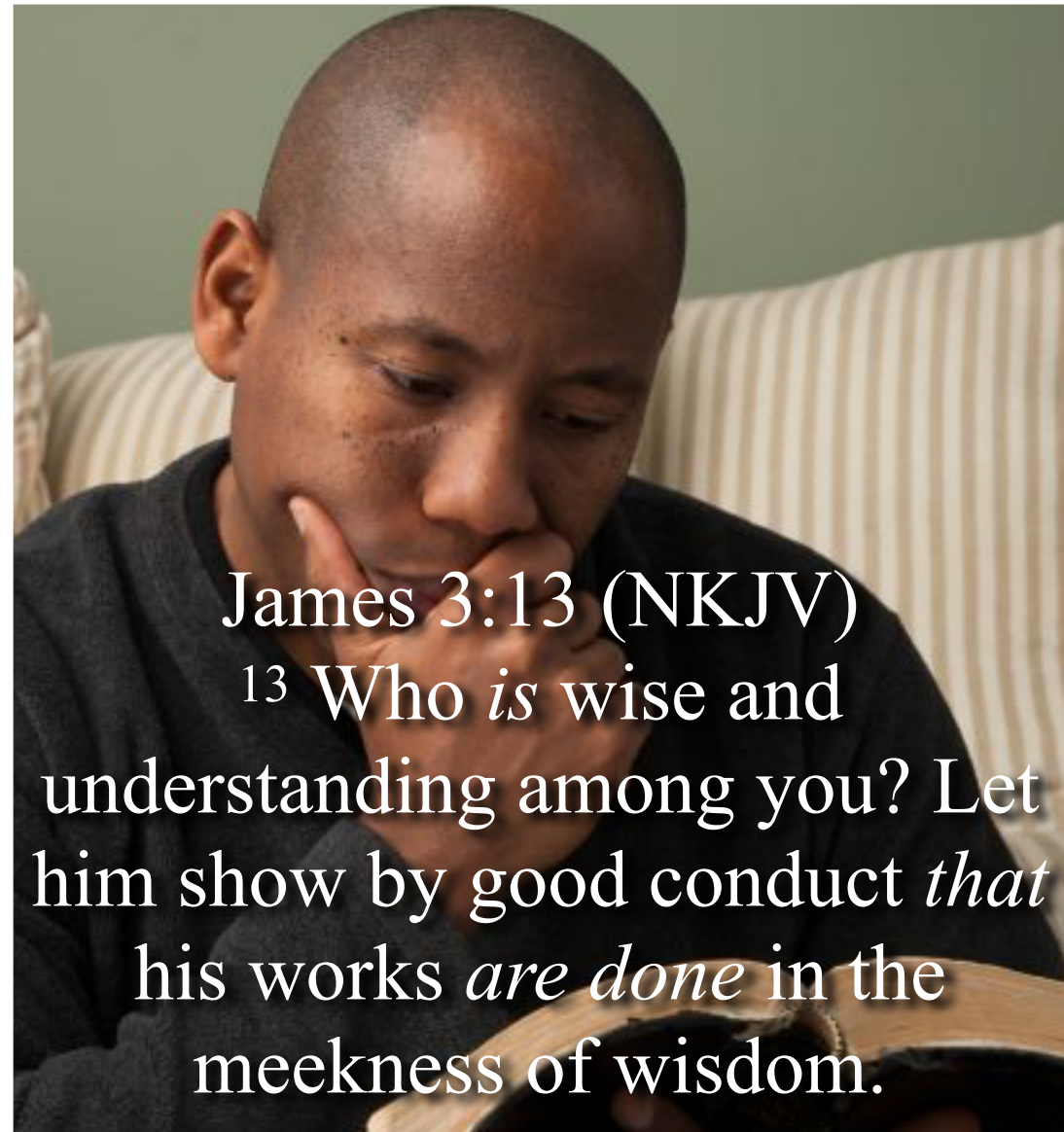
¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches — 1 Cor2:13 (NKJV)

- ◆ God's wisdom is often foolishness to man & man's wisdom is foolishness to God (1 Cor. 2:14; 1:20; 3:18,20)
- ◆ Man's wisdom comes from mere human reasoning, while God's wisdom comes from revelation (1 Cor. 2:4-13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17)
- ◆ Man's worldly wisdom will come to nothing (1 Cor. 1:19), while God's wisdom will endure forever. (Isa. 40:8; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Mat. 24:35)

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WHO IS WISE?



James 3:13 (NKJV)

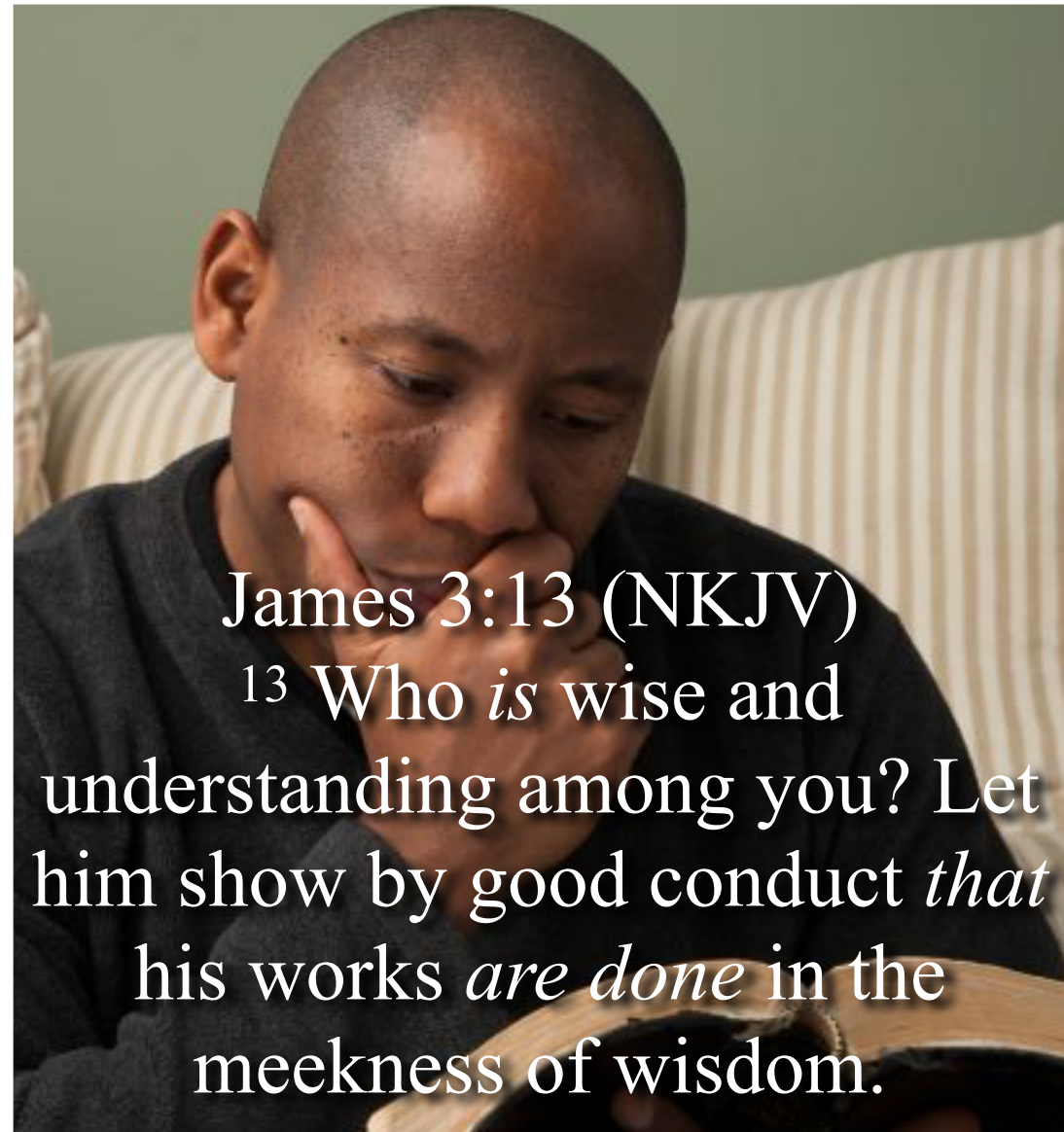
¹³ Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.

- ◆ The one who has accurate knowledge & understanding [directed at teachers] (3:1,13)
- ◆ “Among the Jews, Sophos (“wise”) was a technical term for the teacher, the scribe, the Rabbi” (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament. 7:505)
- ◆ Teachers **MUST PRACTICE** what they teach (3:13; 2:18; Phi. 1:27. 1 Ti. 4:12; 2 Ti. 2:25)

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WHO IS WISE?



James 3:13 (NKJV)

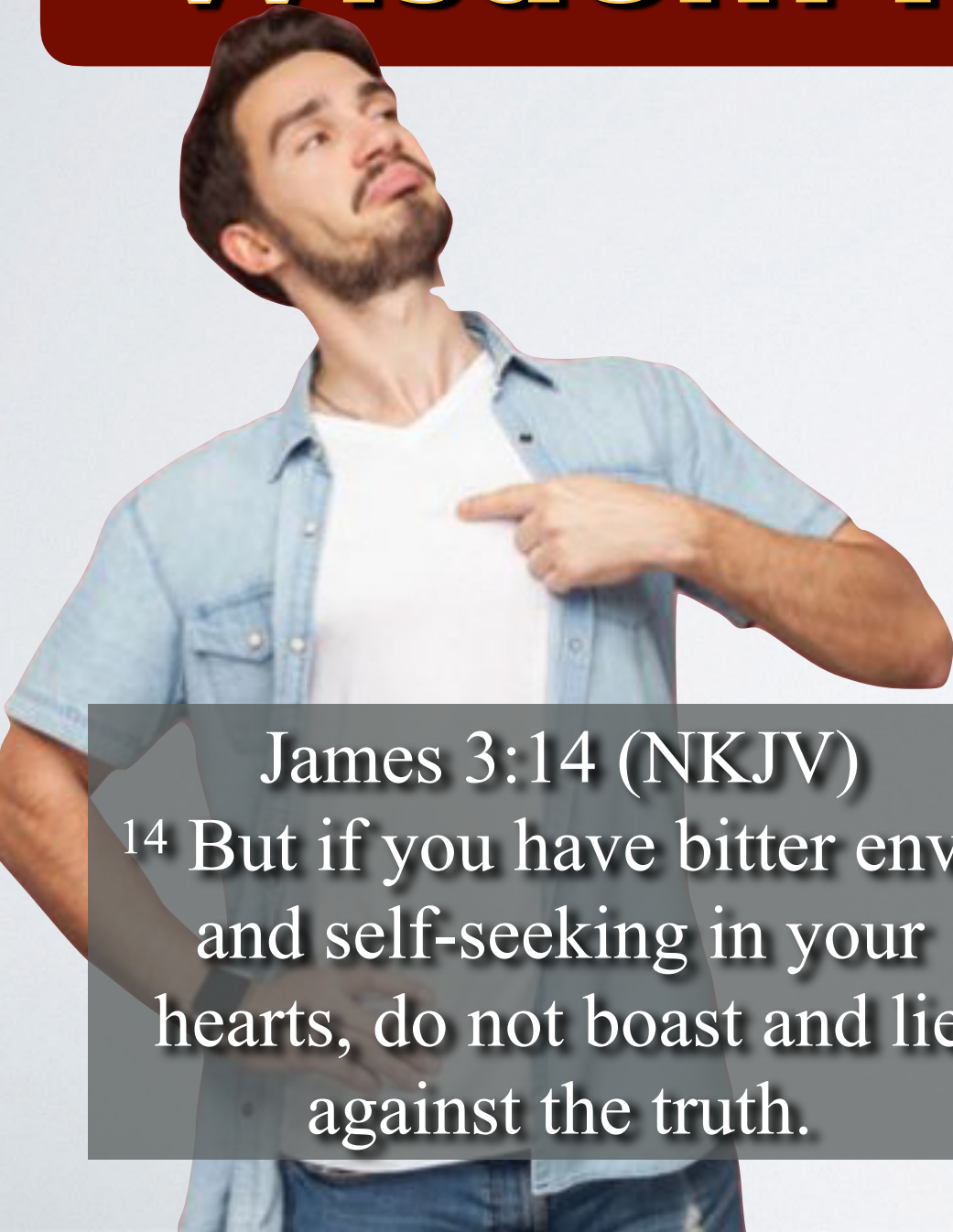
¹³ Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.

- ◆ Let him show (demonstrate) ...
 - ◆ “**Good conversation**” (KJV); - “conduct” (NKJV); “behavior” (NASB) (cf. Eph 5:15-17; 1 Tim 4:12-16)
 - ◆ **Works** (Mt 7:24; Tit 2:14; in contrast cf. Mat. 6:1-18; 23:2-5; Tit 1:16)
 - ◆ **Meekness** - the opposite of arrogance (Mat 20:25-28; Gal. 6:1; 1 Tim 6:11)

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James 3:14 (NKJV)

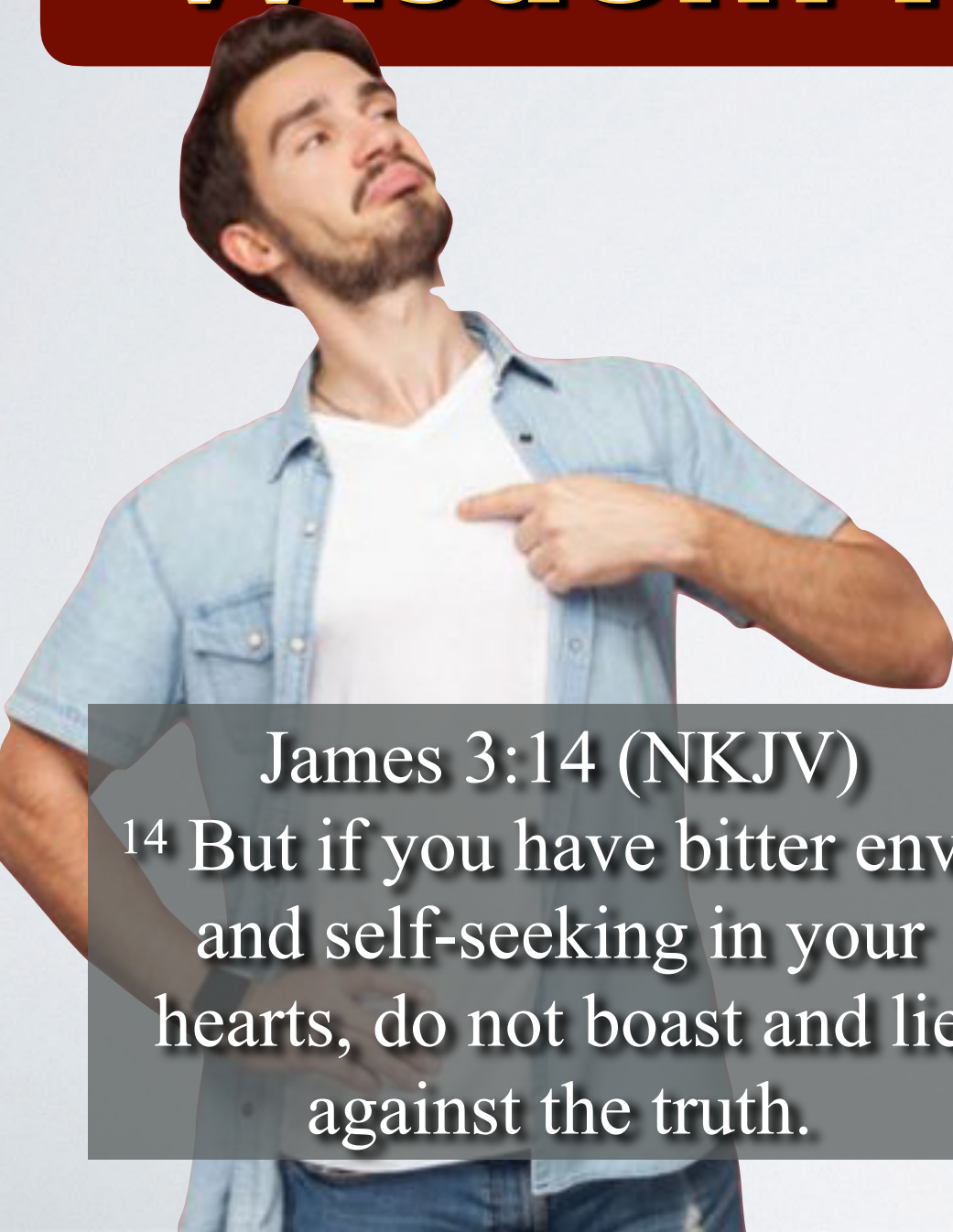
¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

- ◆ “**Bitter envy**” - “an envious and contentious rivalry, jealousy” - (Thayer. 271)
- ◆ “in the sense ‘rivalry’ or ‘party-attachment’” (BDAG)
- 1 Cor 3:3 - “For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?”

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James 3:14 (NKJV)

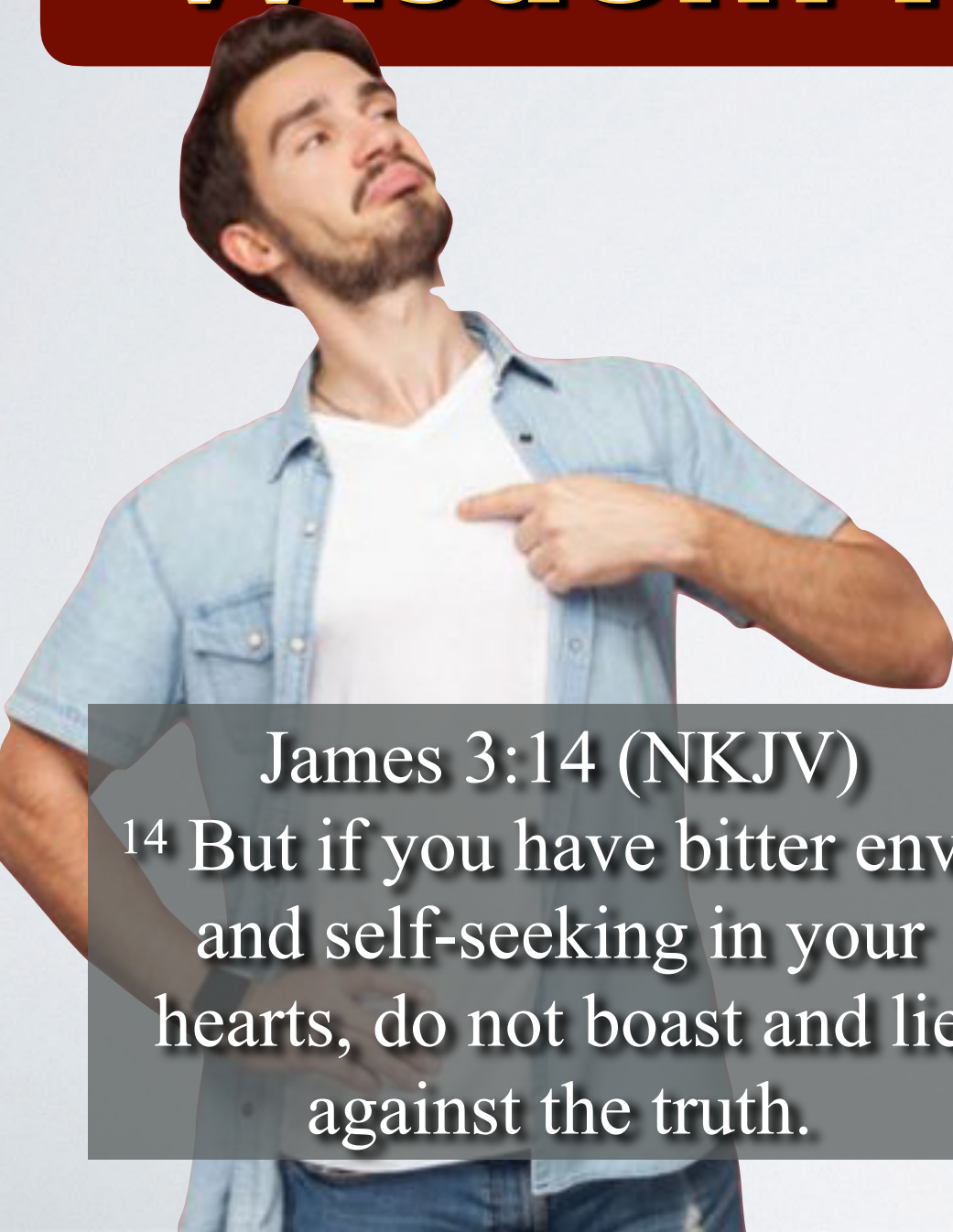
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- ◆ “**Bitter envy**” - “an envious and contentious rivalry, jealousy” - (Thayer. 271)
- ◆ “in the sense ‘rivalry’ or ‘party-attachment’” (BDAG)
- 2 Corinthians 12:20 “... lest *there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;*”

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James 3:14 (NKJV)

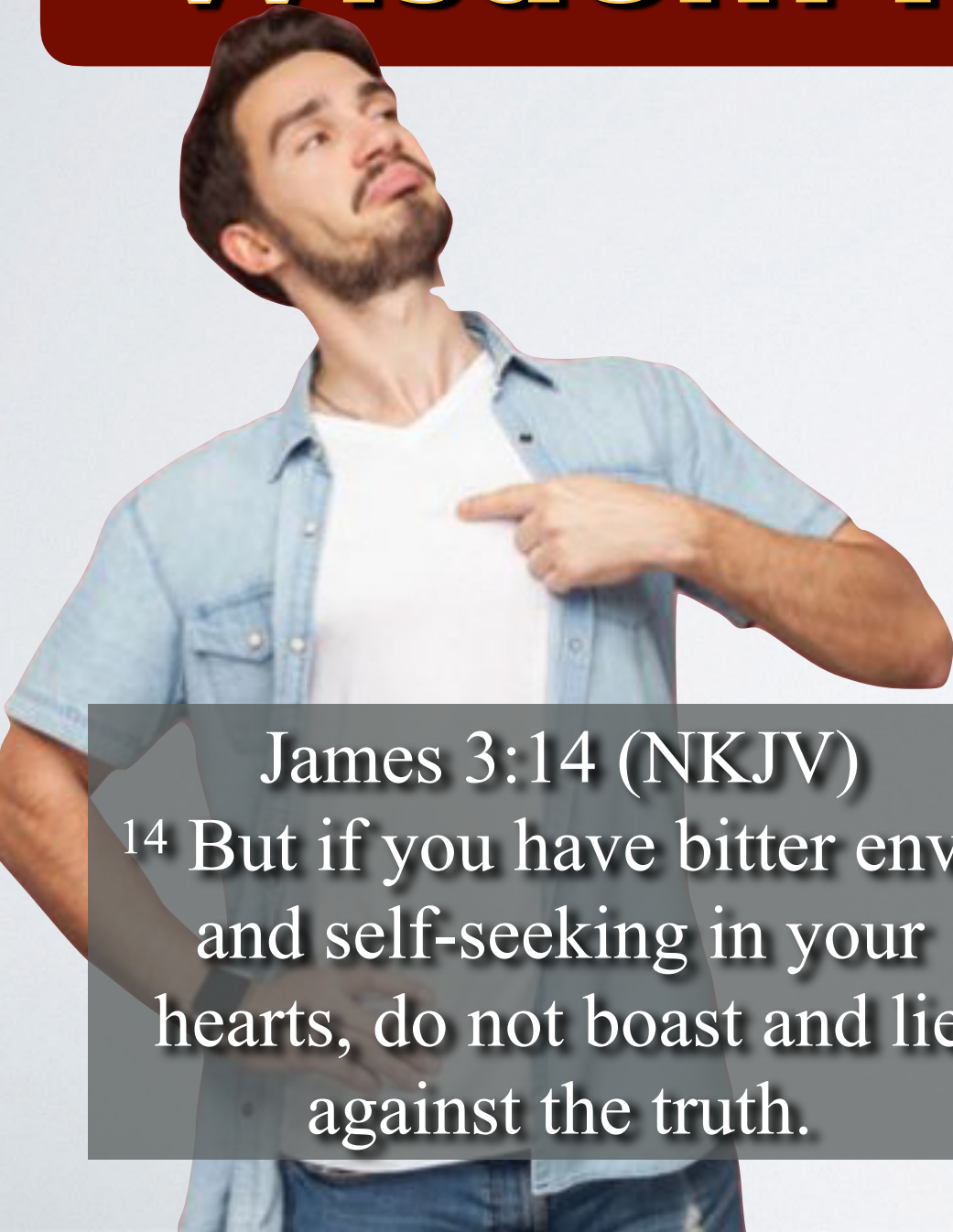
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- ◆ “**Bitter envy**” - “an envious and contentious rivalry, jealousy” - (Thayer. 271)
- ◆ “in the sense ‘rivalry’ or ‘party-attachment’” (BDAG)
- Galatians 5:20 - . . . “... contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ...”

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James 3:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.



“Self seeking” - “faction” (ASV), “strife (KJV), “selfish ambition” - (NASB), “denotes ambition, self-seeking, rivalry, self-will being an underlying idea in the word; hence it denotes party-making” (Vine. 2:68).

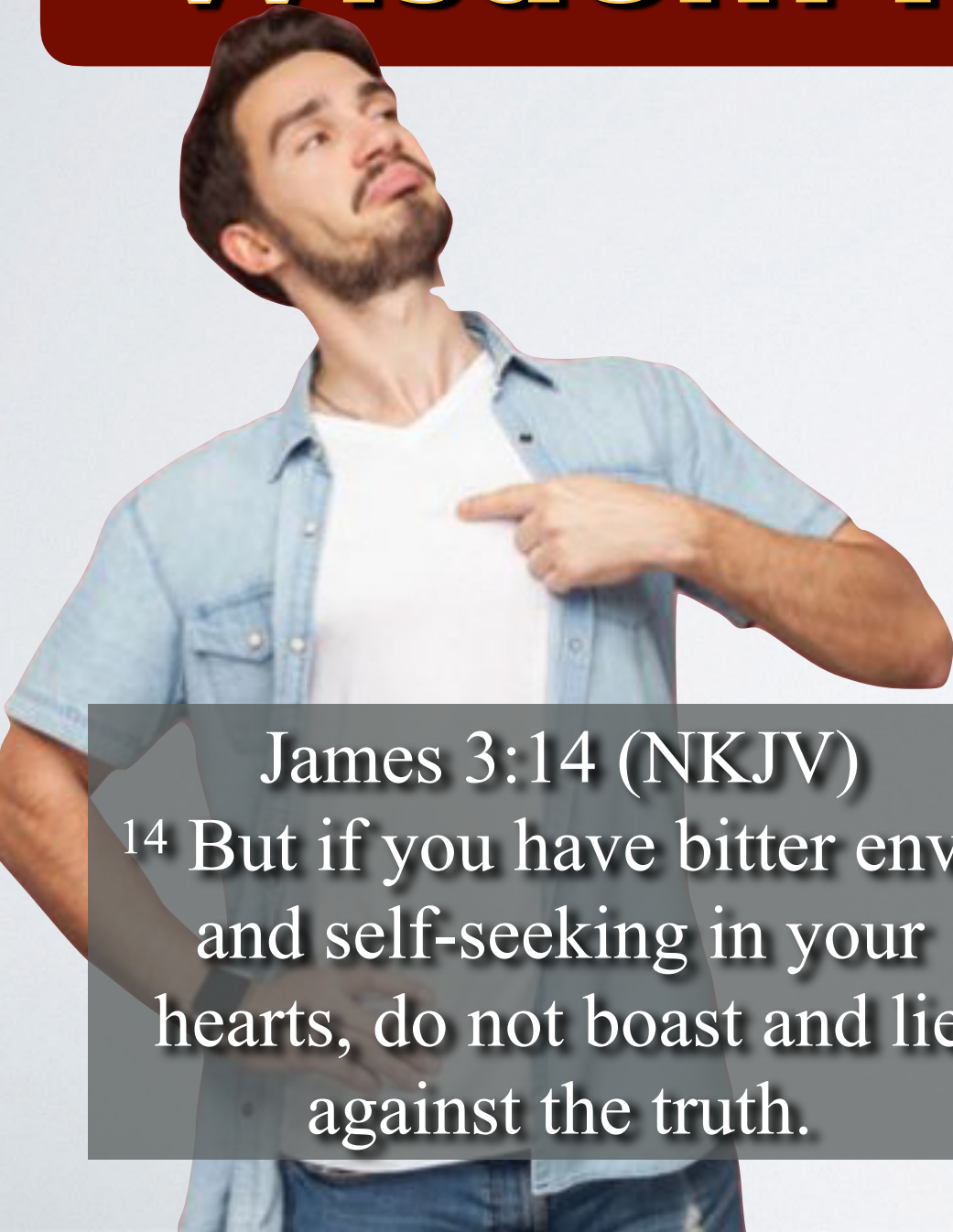


One who is interested in:
Promoting a party or hobby /
Making a name for himself /
Selfish-gain or self-promoting

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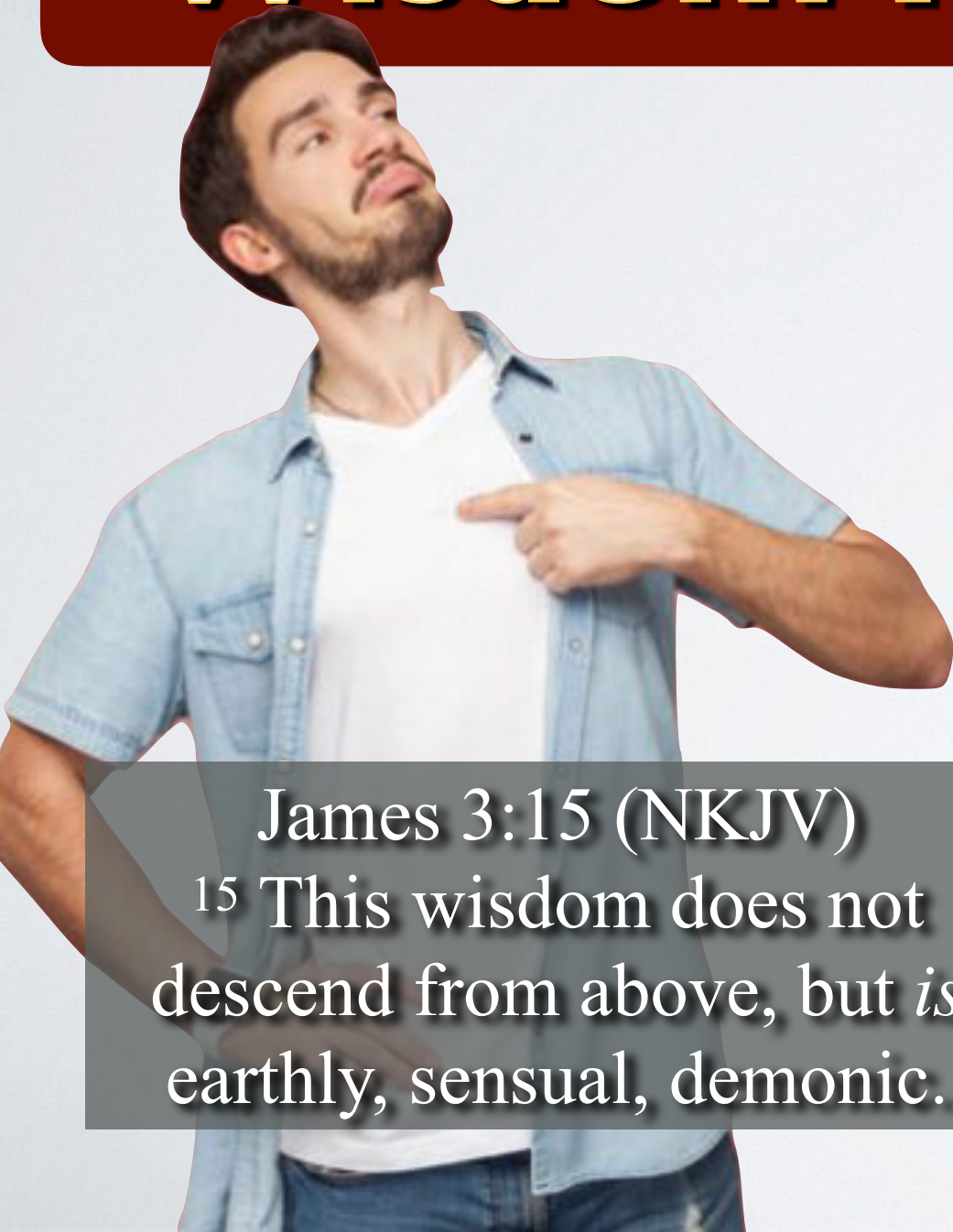
¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

- ◆ **“Do not boast and lie against the truth”** - To be arrogant in promotion of party or self one demonstrates himself a liar and acts contrary to the wisdom he professes to have (Ps. 50:16; Rom. 2:17-24)
- ◆ One is thereby acting contrary to the TRUTH of the gospel (Mat. 23:3; Acts 26:9)

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James 3:15 (NKJV)
15 This wisdom does not
descend from above, but *is*
earthly, sensual, demonic.



Origin: “Earthly” - “existing upon the earth, earthly, terrestrial... the wisdom of man, liable to error and misleading” - (Thayer. 236-7). - cf. Phil. 3:18-20



The world's standards cannot be applied to Spiritual things and relationships (Mat. 16:23)

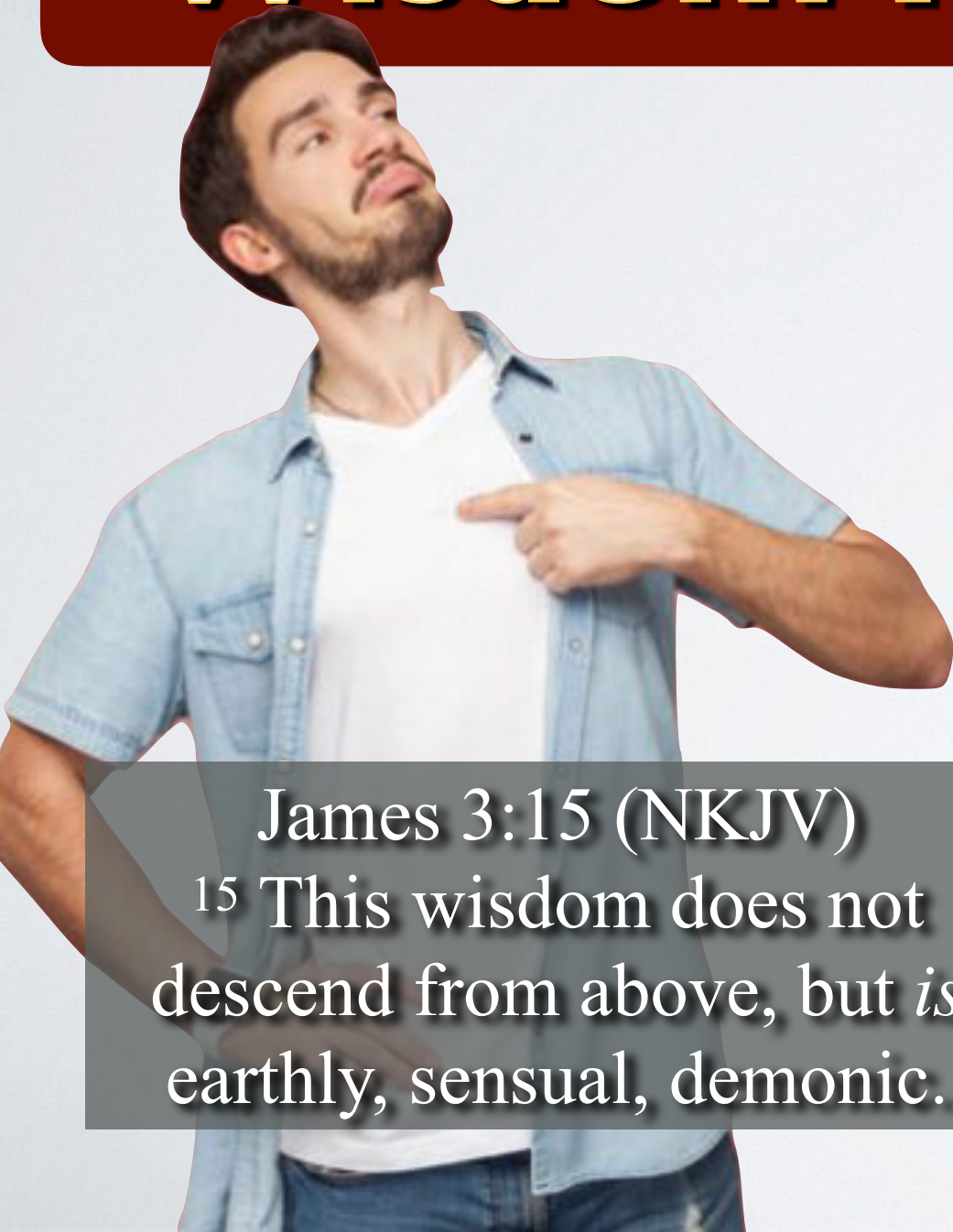


Such wisdom is foolishness to God (cf. 1 Cor 1:20-24, 25,26; 2 Cor. 4:4; 1 John 2:15)

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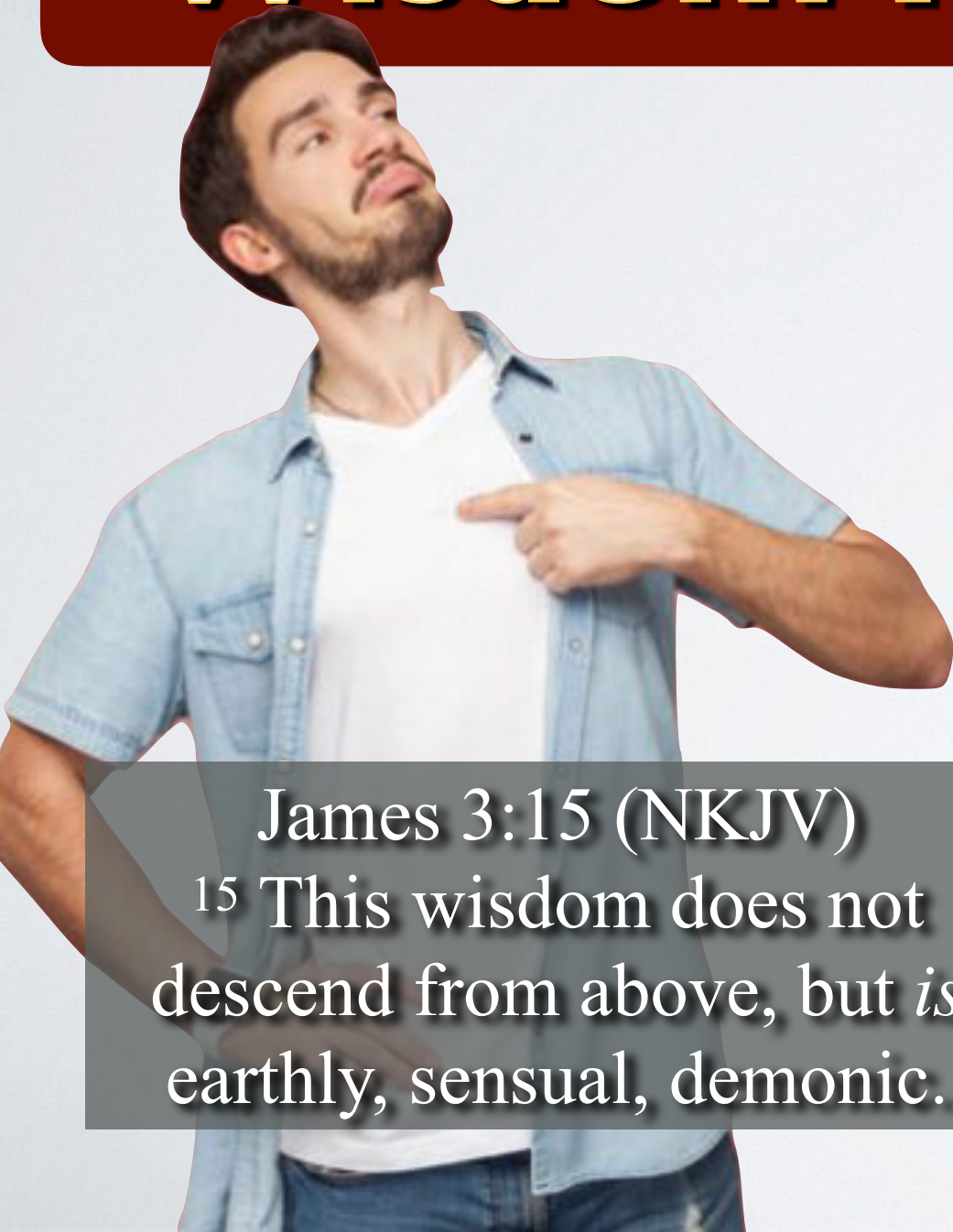
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- ◆ **Appeal: “Sensual”** — “the sensuous nature with its subjection to appetite and passion” (Thayer. 677-8). (cf. Jude 17-19)
- Appealing to the natural senses, emotions, & passions.
- When men follow such wisdom - carnality increases & spirituality decreases!
- Source of perversions in the worship and work of the church

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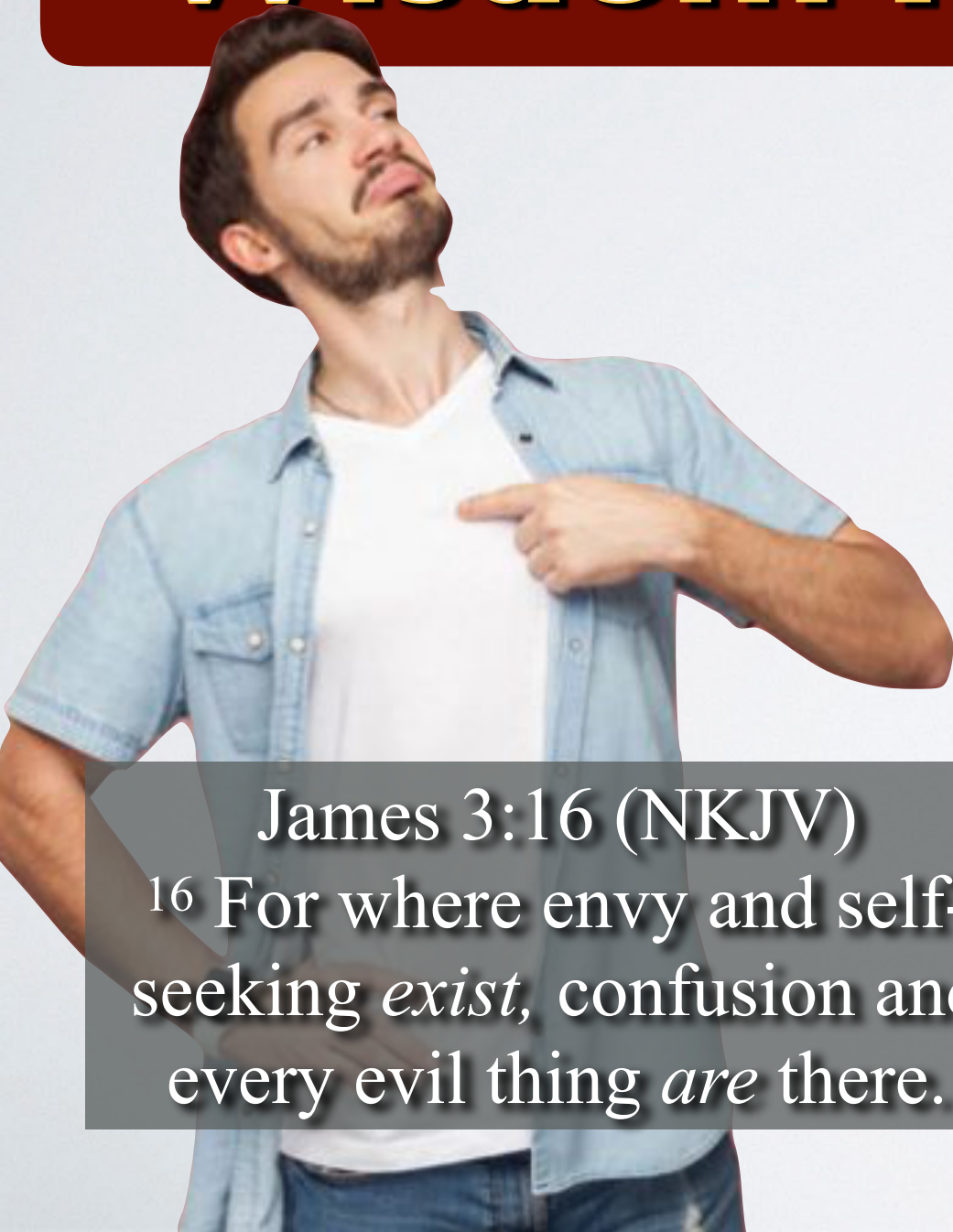
James 3:15 (NKJV)
15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic.

- ◆ **Nature: “devilish”** - “resembling or proceeding from an evil spirit, demon-like” (Thayer 124) (cf. Jn 8:44; Ac. 13:10; 2 Co. 11:3, 13–15)
- Doesn’t require a denial of God & spiritual things, just exalts worldly, carnal & sensual things.
- The devil did not seek to make Eve an atheist, he just wanted God demoted in her mind (Ge 3)
- Thrives upon pride (Prov 3:7)

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James 3:16 (NKJV)
16 For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.



Results of Ungodly Wisdom - 3:16



Confusion - “instability..., denotes a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion, tumult ... revolution or anarchy” (Vine. 1:227)

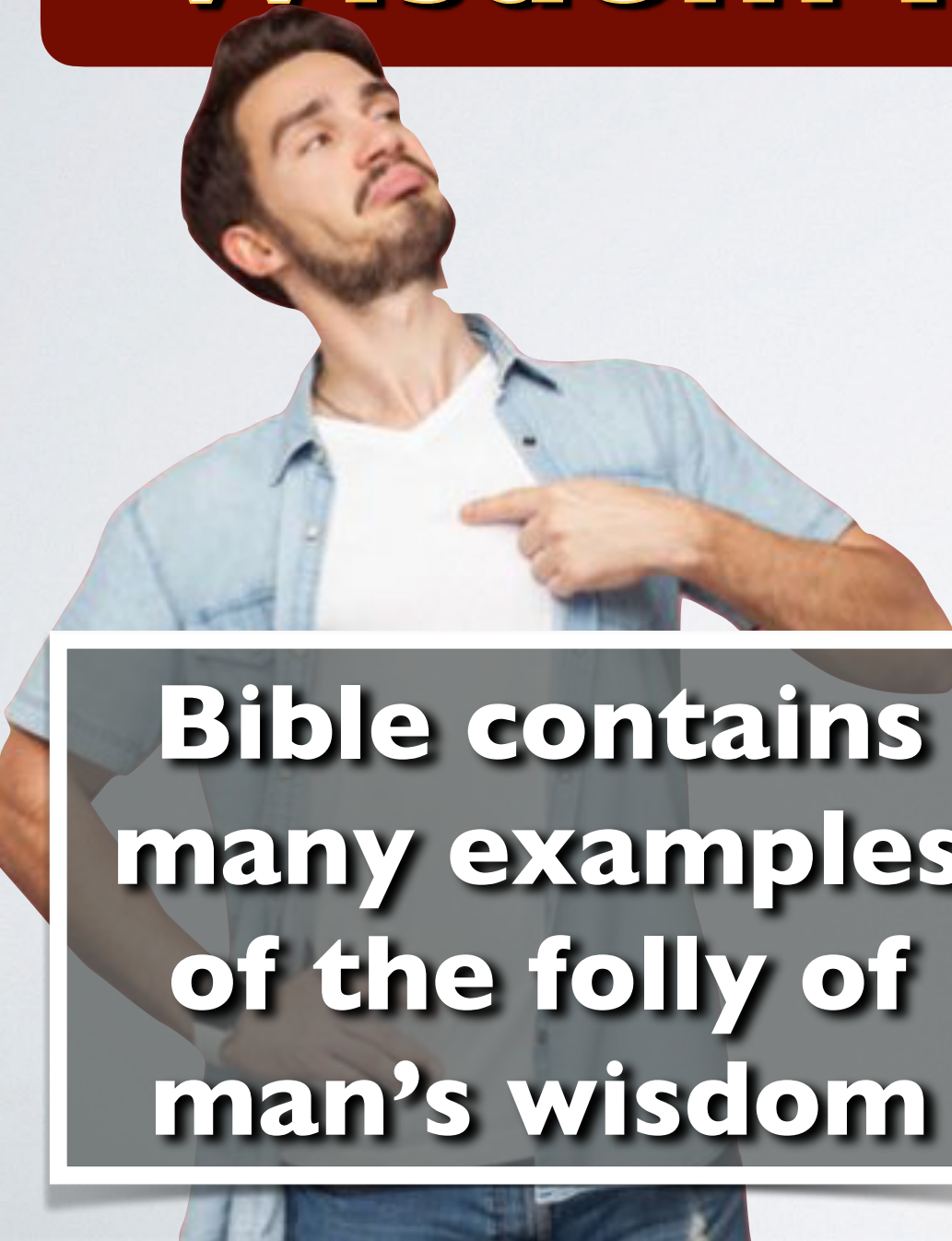


Every evil work - vile, wicked, base (1 Cor. 3:3 — for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?)

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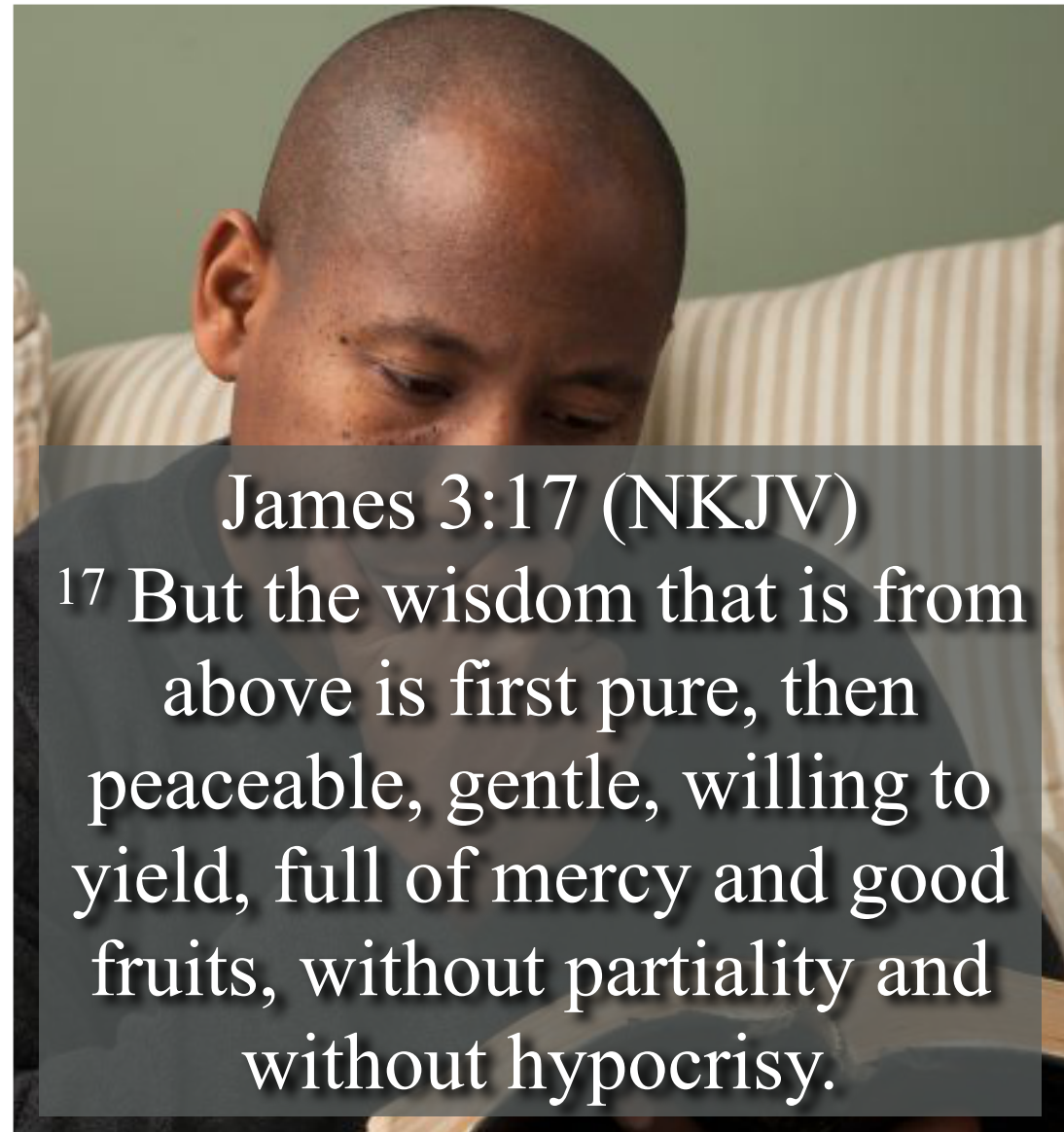
**Bible contains
many examples
of the folly of
man's wisdom**

- ◆ Adam & Eve (Gen. 3)
- ◆ Cain (Gen. 4:3-12)
- ◆ Lot (Gen. 13:10-13)
- ◆ Abraham (Gen. 16:1-6)
- ◆ Israel (Num. 13:26-14:10)
- ◆ Nadab & Abihu (Lev. 10:1-4)
- ◆ Judah's False prophets (Jer. 23:16-23)
- ◆ Judas (Luke 22:3-6)
- ◆ Jews & Gentiles (1 Cor. 1:18-25)

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James 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

❖ **There are Two sources of wisdom**
- just as there are two sources of Authority (Mt 21:23-27)

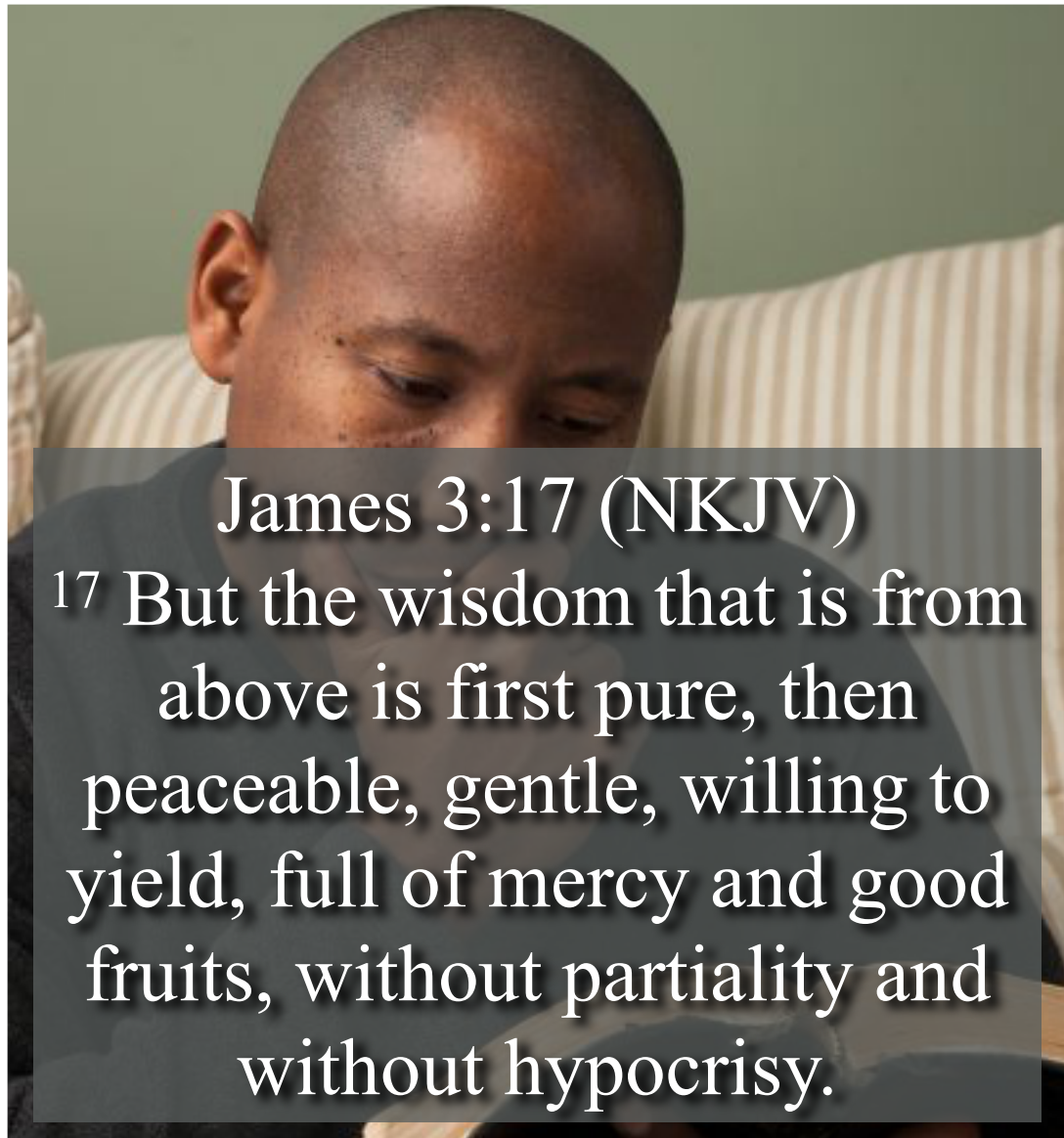
❖ **Obtained from:**

- God (1 Kings 4:29)
- A respect for God (Ps 111:10)
- Asking in faith (Jam. 1:5,6)
- Bible Study (Ps 119:97,98)
- Obedience to God (Ps 107:43)
- Maturity (Heb 5:14)

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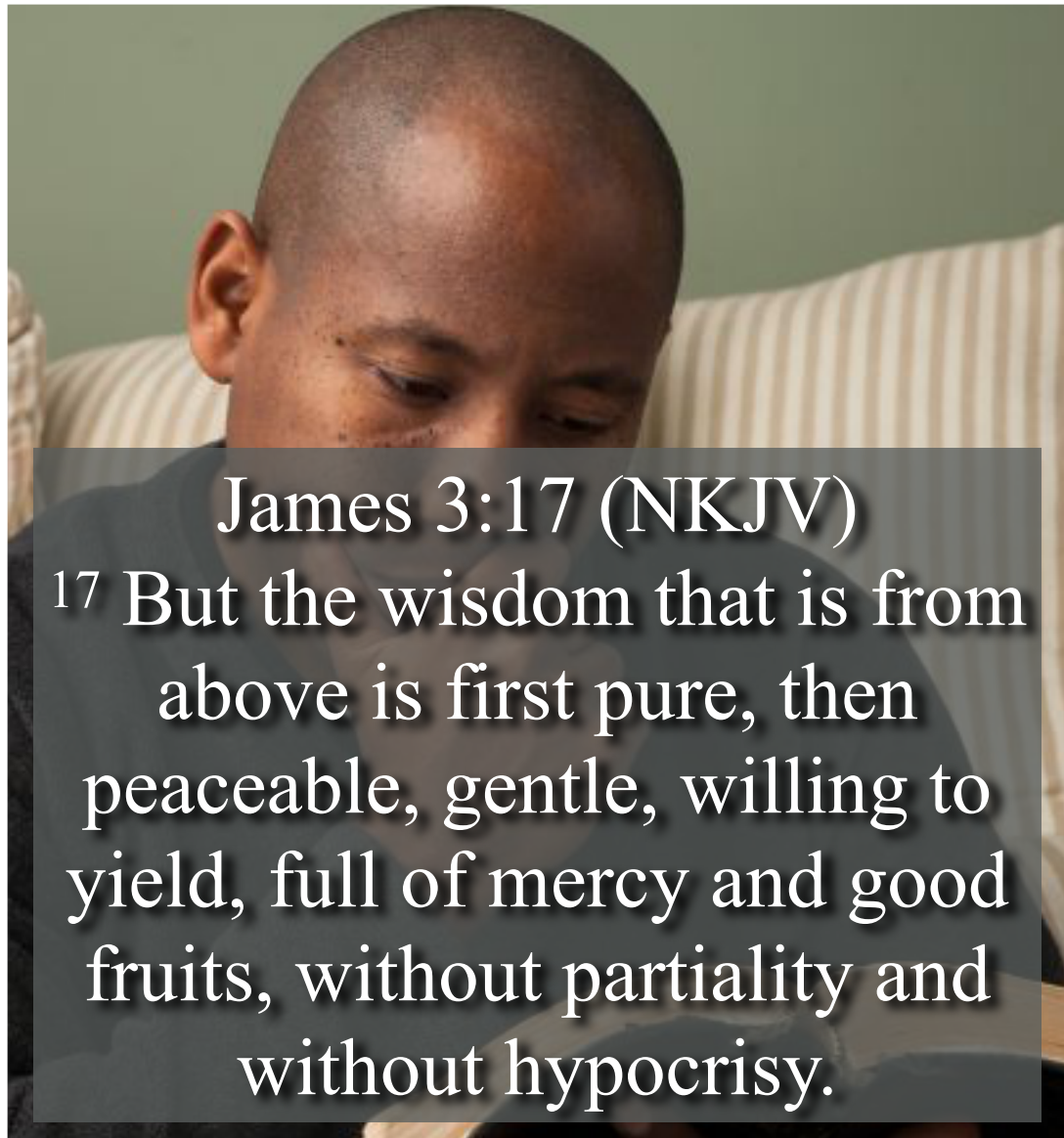
The Character of Wisdom

- **Pure** "pure from defilement, not contaminated" (Vine. 3:231); cf. Mt 5:8; 1 Jn 3:3; Gal 1:8-9
- **Peaceable** - cf. Matthew 5:9
- **Gentle** - "equitable, fair, moderate, forbearing, . . ." it expresses compassion and seeks to persuade with truth out of love, not intimidation (cf. Phil 4:5; Eph. 4:14,15)

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The Character of Wisdom

- **Willing to yield** : “not faith - but opinions - considers the evidence & yields to the truth.
- **Mercy** : “kindness or good will towards the uninformed, joined with a desire to help them” (cf. Mat 5:7)
- **Good fruits** : (cf. Gal 5:22-24)
- **Without partiality** : (cf. Jam 2:1)
- **Without hypocrisy** : genuine

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James 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now the fruit of
righteousness is sown in
peace by those who make
peace.

✦ The Fruit of Wisdom

- **“The fruit of righteousness is sown”** : heavenly wisdom, (the gospel) produces a life that is right which produces good fruit (Phil 1:11; Heb. 12:11)
- **“In peace”** : Mt 5:9; Rom 12:18
- **“By those who make peace”** : cf. 3:12; 4:1,2; Mat 5:9; Rom 5:1; 1:16-17; Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 4:7

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Wisdom From Above



**Bible contains
many examples
of men trusting
God's wisdom**

- ◆ Noah (Gen. 6,7)
- ◆ Abraham (Gen. 12;17;22)
- ◆ Moses (Heb. 11:24-27)
- ◆ Joshua & Israel (Josh. 6)
- ◆ Naaman (2 Kings 5)
- ◆ Peter (Mat. 16:16-18)
- ◆ 3,000 on Pentecost (Ac 2:38-41)
- ◆ Ephesians (Ac 19:1-5, 17-20)
- ◆ Paul (1 Cor. 4:6; 1 Thes. 1:5)
- ◆ Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11)

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Two Kinds of Wisdom / Two Kinds of Fruit

earthly, sensual, demonic

envy

self-seeking

confusion

every evil thing

the wisdom that is from above

pure, peaceable

gentle, willing to yield

merciful, good fruits,

impartiality, not
hypocritical -

peace

Which Do We Exhibit?

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**Sadly, our culture is much like that
of Athens (Acts 17:16-34)**

**Sadly, God's wisdom is becoming
less respected (Rom. 1:18-39)**

**Sadly, many who profess to be
followers of Christ have succumb to
earthly wisdom and have rejected
God (1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:1; Jude 19:16-19)**

James 3:13-18

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Hear The Word of The Lord (Rom 10:17)

Believe In Jesus As The Son of God (Rom. 10:9,10)

Confess Jesus As The Son of God (Rom. 10:9,10)

Repent Turn From Sin & Turn To Jesus As Lord
(Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)

Be Baptized Into Christ (Acts. 2:38-47; Gal. 3:26,27)

Follow Jesus As Lord (Luke 6:46; 1 Cor. 15:58)

James 3:13-18

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Proverbs 2:10–22 (NKJV)

¹⁰ When wisdom enters your heart, And
knowledge is pleasant to your soul, ¹¹

Discretion will preserve you;
Understanding will keep you, ¹² To deliver
you from the way of evil, From the man
who speaks perverse things, ¹³ From those
who leave the paths of uprightness To
walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴ Who
rejoice in doing evil, *And* delight in the
perversity of the wicked;

Proverbs 2:10–22 (NKJV)

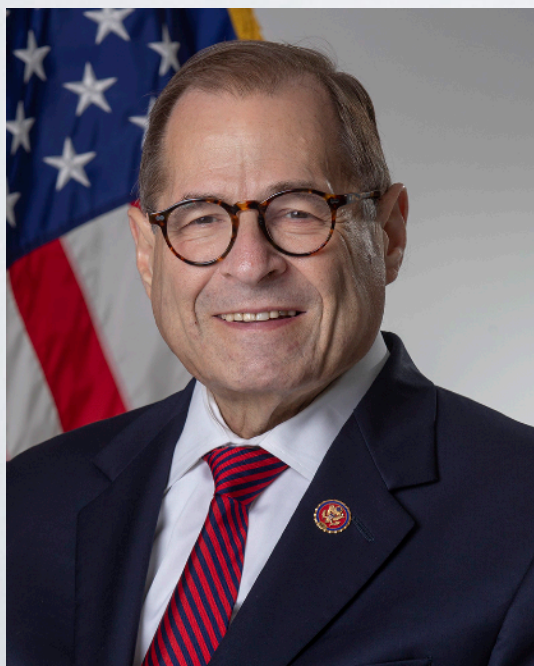
¹⁵ Whose ways *are* crooked, And *who are* devious in their paths; ¹⁶ To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress *who* flatters with her words, ¹⁷ Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God. ¹⁸ For her house leads down to death, And her paths to the dead;

Proverbs 2:10–22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ None who go to her return, Nor do they regain the paths of life— ²⁰ So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep *to* the paths of righteousness. ²¹ For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it; ²² But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.



Rep. Greg Steube, criticized the Equality Act during the House debate, saying it violates Christian beliefs: "The gender confusion that exists in our culture today is a clear rejection of God's good design," he said. "Whenever a nation's laws no longer reflect the standards of God, that nation is in rebellion against him and will inevitably bear the consequences."



Rep. Jerry Nadler pushed back. "Mr. Steube, what any religious tradition describes as God's will is no concern of this Congress," he said.

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"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty for their error which was due" (Romans 1:26-27).
How does it read to you?