



# Faith in Action

Wise and Understanding

## James 3:1-18

1. Teach Wisely 3:1-2a
2. Control Your Tongue 3:2b-12
3. Act Wisely 3:13-18

# 1. Teach Wisely

- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 3:1** Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways...
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **1 Peter 2:12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

## 2. Control Your Tongue

- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 3:2** For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 1:26** If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 15:17** "Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? <sup>18</sup> "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. <sup>19</sup> "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 12:37** "For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned."

- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 3:8** But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; <sup>10</sup> from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Ephesians 5:3** But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; <sup>4</sup> and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. <sup>5</sup> For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

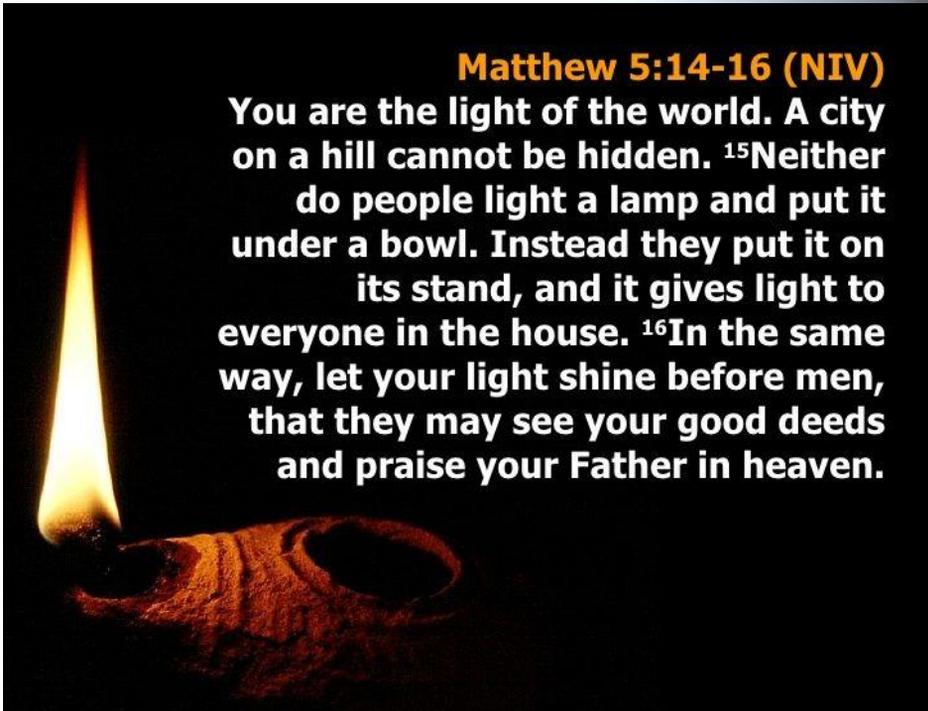
### 3. Act Wisely

- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 3:13** Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Philippians 2:15** ... prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup> holding fast the word of life ...

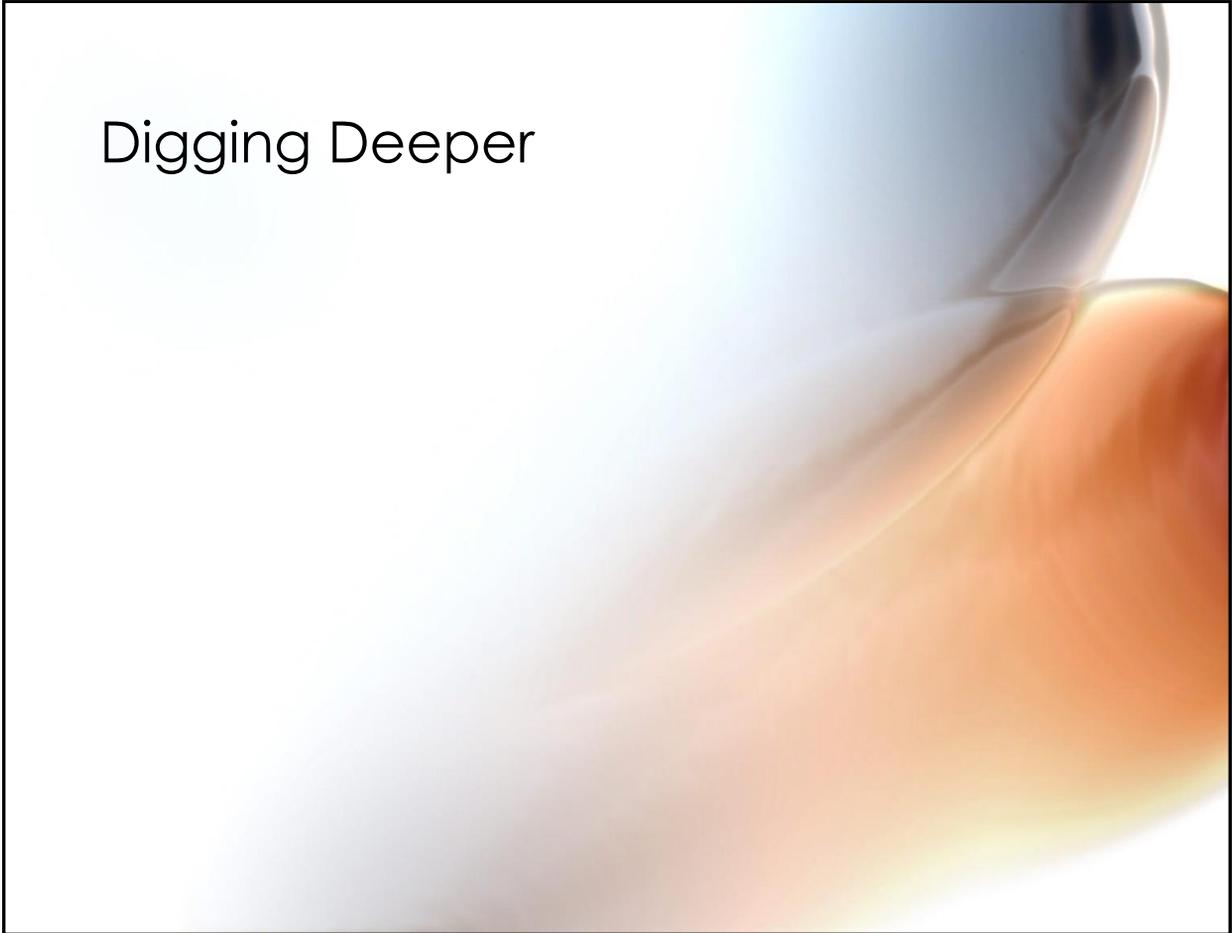
## A Living Shining Faith

### **Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)**

**You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.**



# Digging Deeper



## Trail of Breadcrumbs

- <sup>ESV</sup> **James 1:18** Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 1:21** Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 1:25** But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 2:8** If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 2:12** So speak and so act, as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For ... mercy triumphs over judgment
- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 2:8** If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 3:1** Let not many of you become teachers ...
- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 3:13** Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

## New Covenant

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Jeremiah 31:31** "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

## New Covenant

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Ezekiel 36:25** "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Isaiah 59:21** "And as for Me, this is My covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring," says the LORD, "from now and forever."

## Living Water

- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 3:10** from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. <sup>11</sup> Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?
- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 7:37** Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Isaiah 44:3** 'For I will pour out water on the thirsty land And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, And My blessing on your descendants;

## Human Wisdom

- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 3:14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Corinthians 2:14** But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **Galatians 5:19** Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

## Spiritual Wisdom

- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 3:17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Corinthians 2:12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, <sup>13</sup> which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

# Conclusion

## Walk According to the Spirit

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 8:3** For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, <sup>7</sup> ...<sup>9</sup> However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you...

## Work Out Your Salvation

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 3:5** Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, <sup>6</sup> who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- <sup>LIT</sup> **Philippians 2:12** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for God is the working one in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

## Fight the Good Fight

- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Timothy 6:11** ... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called ...
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 3:14** For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end;
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 12:2** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 3:13** Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.