

Wisdom From Above —Willing to Yield

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BIG SANDY, Texas—There are many sections in the Bible that describe characteristics that disciples seek to inculcate into their lives. One such section is found in James 3:17.

James 3:17—"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."

Today, we will discuss the subject of willing to yield.

Easy to be entreated

The verse (James 3:17) quoted above is from the New King James Version of the Bible. The King James Version has a different phrase from "willing to yield." The King James Version says "easy to be entreated."

■ The English word *entreated* is from the Greek adjective *eupeithes* (No. 2138 in *Strong's Concordance*), which is used only in this verse. While it is generally defined as "submissive," "obedient" and "compliant," the King James translators chose to use the phrase "easy to be entreated."

Not yielding to sin

A Bible student knows that James 3:17 is not encouraging disciples to yield to sin or corruption.

Probably the greatest example of someone not yielding to sin was when the devil tempted the Son of God with three separate traps in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).

The Son of God did not yield to the devil in any of these traps.

■ Matthew 4:3-4—The Son of God did not yield when the devil sought to manipulate Him to use His power at the devil's beckoning to solve the challenge of hunger.

■ Matthew 4:5-7—The Son of God did not yield when the devil sought to manipulate Him to use His power at the devil's beckoning to prove the love of the Father and the angels toward Him.

■ Matthew 4:8-10—The Son of God did not yield when the devil sought to manipulate Him to use His power at the devil's beckoning to initiate a short-cut for showing love to this troubled world.

Yielding to God

Although the context of James 3:17 is not about yielding to God, Bible students know that there are many verses supporting the concept of yielding to God.

Yield to people

A Bible student knows that James 3:17 is encouraging disciples to yield to the needs of other people.

Philippians 2:3-4—"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

1 Corinthians 8:13—"Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."

1 Corinthians 9:19-22—"For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

1 Corinthians 10:32-33—"Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."