

Greg Surratt

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. **James 1:2-5 (NIV)**

Two kinds of wisdom

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. **James 3:13 (NIV)**

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

James 3:14-16 (NIV)

Carey Nieuwhof: 12 Ways Selfish Ambition Damages A Leader’s Soul

1. YOUR PERSONAL SENSE OF WORTH GOES _____ WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD OF YOU.
2. FAILURE IS _____.
3. YOU THINK YOU’RE THE _____.
4. YOU USE _____ TO GET YOU WHERE YOU WANT TO GO.
5. YOU TAKE THE _____.
6. YOU STRIVE FOR BREADTH OF _____.
7. YOU ARE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT _____.
8. YOU’RE ALWAYS _____ YOURSELF TO OTHERS.
9. IT’S HARD TO SAY _____ TO ANY OPPORTUNITY.
10. YOU FEEL ENTITLED TO ANY _____ THAT COMES YOUR WAY.
11. THE NEED TO _____ IS GREATER THAN THE NEED TO _____.
12. YOU ARE ALWAYS _____.

A better way

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. **James 3:17 (NIV)**

Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. **James 3:18 (NIV)**

BECOMING CONTAGIOUS PEACEMAKERS IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

1. LET OUR THOUGHTS BE IN _____ AND NOT IN _____

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. **2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NIV)**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **Philippians 4:6-8 (NIV)**

2. LET OUR CONVERSATIONS BE FULL OF _____ AND NOT _____

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ... and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.... Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen

Ephesians 4:22, 24-25, 29 (NIV)

3. LET OUR HOPE BE IN _____ NOT IN OUR OWN _____

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13 (NIV)**

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. **Philippians 1:21-26 (NIV)**

ONE KEY TAKEAWAY

From this message, what is the one key takeaway you will apply to grow your faith?