

(Job said, "I KNOW my Redeemer liveth – every thing that Job FELT said he was a goner – every-thing that Job SAW, told him that God had abandoned him. Everything that Job HEARD told him that he had failed God and that God was punishing him with the difficult circumstances – everything in Job's SENSORY EXPERIENCE said, "You're done, finished, over – God is through with you. But what Job KNEW in his heart of faith was that he served a good, giving, and perfect God who would never forsake him and so in faith he cried out – I KNOW MY REDEEMER LIVETH and in that day I will see Him!

The man that says, I know God is good, but I feel like he's treating me badly -
The man that says, I know God is gracious to me, but it looks like He's abandoned me.
The man that says, I know God is a loving God – but what I hear says that God is trying to destroy me -
THAT MAN will not receive anything from the Lord.

DOUBLE MINDED (lit. "two-souled.") - Here is a person with a "split personality." He is trying to live as two people; one who trusts God and one who does not. The background for what James is saying is in the Old Testament where a person is instructed to love God with an undivided heart (Deut. 6:5 and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

In contrast to the man who loves God with his **WHOLE HEART**, there is the hypocrite who has a double heart (Ps. 12:2-they speak deceitfully every one with his neighbor, flattering with their lips and speak with a double heart.). This is a person who is trying to look to God and the world at the same time.

UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS -- This person's life is characterized by instability. That inner firmness which gives purpose and direction to life is lacking. Trials and pressure simply emphasize the instability and make it worse.

Remember last week when we said that pressure does two things, and one of the things *it does is to reveals character.*

These are strong words given after great reassurance regarding God's purpose and plan in trials.

We can be sure beyond a doubt that God will give wisdom for trials to those who ask of Him.

We must ask in faith, believing that He is able and willing. There is no "plan B" for us as believers.

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Let's Get Practical

Part 2

SEEKING WISDOM

Practical Applications of Biblical Truth

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Going Around the World for Jesus

Seeking Wisdom

James 1:5-8

Intro.--James opens his letter by immediately addressing the difficult problem of testing in the believer's life. (Review verses 2-4.)

God's purpose in all He does is to bring His children to maturity as spiritual adults. Testing and trials are necessary for us to mature.

But there is a further question to be dealt with in the area of trials. I may have the knowledge of the facts that have been given in verses 2-4, but still find myself struggling with how to cope with certain pressure situations.

In verses 5-8, James instructs his readers on how to get the wisdom necessary to function under pressure in a biblical way. He deals with two essential matters:

I. Where to Go for Wisdom -- 1:5

II. How to Go for Wisdom -- 1:6-8

I. Where to Go for Wisdom -- 1:5

IF ANY OF YOU -- The way this is stated (first-class condition) assumes that they do indeed have this need. People undergoing trials need special wisdom from God to face them.

LACKS -- This connects with what James said at the end of verse 4 going back to the last lesson, that it is God's intention that we be lacking in nothing.

WISDOM -- Wisdom is sometimes defined as "the right use of knowledge." It involves applying the truth that we know to the situations that we confront. In the present context James is talking about the ability to take the truth of verses 3 and 4 and apply it to the trials that we are facing. In verse 3 James stated, "**Knowing this, that the trying of your faith produces endurance**". If Wisdom is the right use of knowledge, James intention now is to add Godly wisdom to Godly knowledge.

This is a supernatural ability to see the hand of God at work bringing us to perfection in Christ. This perception and understanding do not "just happen."

LET HIM ASK OF GOD -- All who are undergoing trials are commanded to ask God for wisdom in facing them. I need to know how to bear up under the burden and the perception to appreciate its necessity. When you are in difficult circumstances, your energy is better spent on asking God for wisdom about your response, rather than complaining and seeking a way out from the pressure.

ALL WISDOM CENTERS IN GOD. Without a knowledge of Him, we are unable to understand the issues and circumstances of life

Prov. 9:10: *The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and the knowledge of holy things, is understanding.*

Proverbs 2:6-10: *For the Lord given wisdom, out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He preserves the state of the righteous, he is a shield to them that walk uprightly, that they may keep the ways of judgment; and he preserves the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness and judgment, and equity, and every good path. When wisdom enters into thine heart and knowledge delights thy soul. Then shall counsel preserve thee, and understanding shall keep thee.*

A recognition of my need and a willingness to be continually seeking (present tense) wisdom from God are crucial to receiving the needed wisdom. There is no room here for self-sufficiency or spiritual pride.

WHO GIVES TO ALL MEN GENEROUSLY -- A proper understanding of the character of God will be an encouragement to us in seeking wisdom from Him. He is a giving God.

WITHOUT REPROACH -- We need have no fear of rejection when we come to God for wisdom. He does not ridicule us because we have had to come so many times. Our past failures are not brought up to shame us.

IT WILL BE GIVEN TO HIM --The wisdom we seek will be ours (Matt. 7:7-11: If you then, which are evil, can give to your children good gifts, how much more shall your Father which in Heaven, give good things to them that ask him?)

So a proper view of the character of God as a giving God will encourage us in coming to Him for wisdom. However, if we expect to receive the wisdom we need, we must come in faith.

II. How to Go for Wisdom -- 1:6-8

LET HIM ASK IN FAITH -- We must trust that God is able and willing to do as He has promised. **WITHOUT ANY DOUBTING** -- There can be no wavering between two opinions. I cannot be divided within myself, believing that God can and will do as He has promised and at the same time questioning whether He will.

Yet this is the very situation in which we often find ourselves when we are under great pressure. This trial seems in danger of overwhelming us and we begin to wonder whether God really loves us, whether He is doing what is best for us whether He will see us through as He promised.

These questions must be put out of our minds as we come to Him. We must come in full reliance upon Him and His promises. We come as His children asking Him to do as He promised.

The one who doubts is said to be like a wave of the sea. That wave is at the mercy and whim of the wind.

A person whose faith is not firmly placed in God and in His character as the giving God lacks stability in his life. He is at the whim of the circumstances that blow upon him.

For a time there is confidence and joy in God. Then, as trials come and persist, there is doubt and wavering. It is a life of instability. Every trial will bring doubt and confusion into the life and he will be like a man tossed back and forth by the ocean seas.

THAT MAN -- James is being very specific here - "that man" which man? The one who doubts, the double-minded man; "that man".

EXPECT -- This word implies thought which is based on feeling rather than fact