

# FAITH IN ACTION

## *Praying in Faith, James 1:5-12*

### ***The Difference between Knowledge and Wisdom***

**James 1:5 (KJV) <sup>5</sup> “If any of you lack wisdom,...”**

- Verses 2-4 of James 1 speak about going through trials and challenges of life, and in this life we're all at some point going to face them
  - The God-ordained trials we face have a *purpose*
  - What should we pray for when we're going through trials, trouble, and temptations?
  - Believers that want to grow spiritually, pray for *wisdom*
  - In the midst of tests, trials, and temptations there is the need and demand for wisdom
  - When you pray for wisdom, you're asking God to help you understand how to use your trials for your good and His glory
  - What we need to go *through* the trials and temptations we we face in life is wisdom
  - Wisdom is *different* than knowledge
  - Knowledge is the *collection and accumulation* of facts, information, and data
  - Knowledge is raw information, but wisdom knows how to use it
  - When you're in a trial, it's easy to lose direction and perspective, that's why wisdom is so important
  - Wisdom is the right application of knowledge
  - When you and I going through the difficulties of life where things are falling apart, we need the wisdom of God to put things back together
  - Wisdom helps us conquer and gain the victory over trial, tribulations and problems of life
- Proverbs 4:7 (KJV) “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: ...”**
- Where can we find wisdom?

### ***Wisdom is Yours for the Asking***

***“...let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”***

- If we are going trials and temptations that can't handle or figure out, we need to ask for wisdom
- If we are deficient in wisdom, God said *ask* Him
- God is the source of wisdom
- The wisdom of God is *divine*, it comes from God
- The wisdom of God is more than common sense
- True wisdom begins with God **Proverbs 1:7 (KJV) *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom***
- When we ask for wisdom, we are asking to be like Christ because Christ the *wisdom* of God **1 Corinthians 1:24 (KJV) “... Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”**
- Jesus doesn't merely have wisdom, He is the personification of wisdom
- When we pray for wisdom, we're asking for **Jesus' answer** to our problems
- The reason we need to ask for wisdom in the midst of trials is so we don't *miss or waste* the opportunities God is giving us to mature
- What wisdom does is help us understand how these trial, troubles, and temptations are going to be used to grow us up and for be used for God's glory
- Therefore, in the midst of our trials lets us pray for wisdom
- And when we pray for wisdom, God promises to give it to us
- God promises to:

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- To give us wisdom when we ask for it
- To give us liberal amount, an abundance of wisdom
- Not to criticize you for not knowing not knowing how to handle your or temptation
- Not to be like people, He will criticize you for not knowing how to handle a problem because He wants you to keep coming back for His wisdom
- When you come to God for wisdom, it shows you truly trust Him

### **Ask in Faith**

**<sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. <sup>8</sup> A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**

- God doesn't merely want you to know what to ask for (wisdom), but also how to ask
- We are to ask for wisdom in faith
- Asking in faith means we pray *without* doubting God's desire or ability to give us the wisdom we need for our situation
- **Praying in faith means we're praying without doubting**
- It means to pray with a single mind **Proverbs 11:3 (KJV) "The integrity of the upright shall guide them:..."**
- The prayer prayed in faith *is born* or rooted in the word of God **Romans 10:17 (KJV) 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**
- If we pray *and* doubt at the same time, we are like the waves of sea, up one minute and down the next
- The word *waver* means to *doubt, dispute, or debate*
- We are to praying faith **without** doubting
- If we waver in faith, we can't expect to receive *anything* from the Lord
- God can't answer the prayers of doubting people
- When we waver in faith we are *double-minded*, or faith is not dependable, it's unreliable
- Doubled-minded means to have two souls or two minds
- A double-minded person is unstable, unsettled in all their ways
- **The greatest enemy to answered prayer is unbelief**
- But our prayers should be like Solomon's in the Old Testament in 1 Kings 3
- Solomon asked for the *wisdom* to know how to go out and come in amongst these, *Your people*
- Solomon needed wisdom in how to conduct himself as king over God's people
- Solomon was saying, "God I've been promoted *above* my ability, I need your wisdom in how to do this"
- God was pleased with Solomon's prayer request that He gave Solomon a *wise and understanding* heart and that there was no one like before him or after him
- God gave Solomon what he asked for, but God also gave him what he didn't ask for **1 Kings 3:13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.**
- Because Solomon asked for wisdom, God throws other things as a bonus
- Because you prayed for wisdom in the midst of your trials and troubles, and temptations and prayed in faith without doubting; God often gives you wisdom and a *bonus*.

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### ***The Poor and the Rich***

***James 1: 9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: 10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. 11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.***

- The trials and temptations believers face in life have a way of leveling the playing field
- Regardless of where you are on the socioeconomic scale, trials have a way of bringing us to the same level of need
- True stability in life comes to those who continue to trust in God during their trials
- James shows what he means by giving two extreme examples:
  1. *Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted*
    - They can rejoice because they have persevered in trials and their perseverance has *exalted them spiritually*
    - Despite not having what they needed, God *always* provided
    - The spiritual maturity they have gained through trials will exalt them to an eternal future glory
    - Compared to eternity, poverty is a *short-lived* trial
  2. *But the rich, in that he is made low*
    - The rich are to rejoice in trials just like the poor
    - The rich person seems to have it all together
    - The rich are to rejoice *not* in their riches, but in being made low, they are to rejoice in their *humility*, despite having wealth
    - When the rich experience trials God wants them to see there's more to life than their riches, and there are some problems that riches can't solve
    - The rich can rejoice in God's provision
- The poor can rejoice in what God provides and the rich can rejoice when they realize they can't "buy" what they need, and they rejoice in what God provides
- The poor and the rich rejoice in the *provision* of God

### ***The Reward***

***12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.***

- When we conquer trials and temptations, God will reward us for persevering
- Blessed or happy is the person who endures trials and temptations.
- God promises spiritual joy, assurance and confidence that will guide us through any trial or temptation we face in life
- After the trials of this life are over, we'll receive a crown of life
- When we as believers endure the trials and temptations of life, we shall be rewarded with the crown of life, eternal life
- Perseverance, endurance in the face of trials is the key to receiving the crown of life ***Galatians 6:9 (NLT) 9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.***
- The person who truly loves the Lord is also the person who perseveres in the midst of trials