

Small Group questions:

1. Take 15 minutes to review the three steps.
2. How important is to ask for wisdom when you are going under trials?
3. Why is it so hard for us to admit that we need help?
4. Where do most people get advice when under trials?
5. Who are we ask for wisdom and why?
6. Have you ever doubted God?
7. If you ever doubt, what is a life lesson you are learning today?
8. Are you a stable or are you an inconsistent person?
9. How important is for you to have stability and be consistent in your life.
10. Share two main things that you learn in this study.

Title : Wisdom for life's trials.

Pastor Paul Balderas

James 1: 5-8

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

"Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity."

trials are God – given opportunities to build character. Our God uses trials to perfect our Christian character.

Proposition :

How can we obtain the wisdom we need to face life's trials ?
James answers that question by providing the 3 necessary steps.

#1Step one: R_____ your need for wisdom in your trial.

Explanation :

V.5 "If anyone of you lacks wisdom

a. We need to be humble enough to say I need help :
Why is it so hard for us to admit that we need help?

b. Pride vs humility in the trial

*When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom. **Proverbs 11:2***

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil" (Prov. 3:5-7).

#2 Step two : P _____ for wisdom in life's trails

V.5b "If anyone of you lacks wisdom, ***let him ask God***

Explanation:

a. Let him ask is an imperative verb in the Greek.

James wrote this under divine inspiration which means this is a divine command, praying to the Lord for wisdom is not an option. It is mandatory.

b. "Ask" is not only an imperative but also in the present tense. Keep on praying more than once

c. What exactly are we asking for? what is wisdom?

Proverbs 9:10 *"The beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord.*

Wisdom is not knowledge.

Knowledge is information, *wisdom is the right application of information.*

James continues by giving us three initiatives for ask God for wisdom

1. Who gives generously to all
2. God gives generously to all without reproach.
3. God Promise wisdom

#3 Step three : T _____ God in life's trials

Explanation:

There is a natural and critical progression in the text. Trials demand wisdom.

Wisdom demands prayer. Prayer demands faith.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- Verse 5 commands us to ask God for wisdom.
- Verses 6-8 explain how to ask God for wisdom.
- Verse 5 is an open promise every Christian can claim.
- Verse 6-8 establish an essential condition for receiving the promise. As you ask God for wisdom, trust God for wisdom.

- **God responds to the one who prays in faith.**

6a *"But let him ask in faith*

- **God rejects the one who prays with doubt.**

6b *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting*

- **What God thinks about the doubter.**

6c *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."*

Conclusion : The double-minded is not just unstable in his prayer life.

He is unstable ***"in all his ways."***

A person who cannot trust God cannot be trusted. He is unstable in all his ways.

But turn this verse inside out and consider the inverse:

"A single-minded man is stable in all his ways."

Proverbs 3:5-6 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*