

SUMMER SERMON SERIES 2022

“Wisdom for life’s trials” V.5-8

JAMES

FAITH ⊕ ACTION

GRACE NORWALK

- 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.**

How can we obtain the wisdom we need to face life's trials? Three necessary steps.

#1 Step one : Recognize your need for wisdom in your trial

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?**

Pride vs humility in the trial

Proverbs 11:2

***When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom.***

- **Prov. 3:5–7**

“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”.

How can we obtain the wisdom we need to face life's trials? Three necessary steps.

#2 Step two : Pray for wisdom in life's trials

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

"Ask"

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

- 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 that information.***

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

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

How can we obtain the wisdom we need to face life's trials? Three necessary steps.

#3 Step three : Trust God in life's trials

- 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.*

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

Verse 6a *“But let him ask in faith..”*

- **God rejects the one who prays with doubt. Verse 6b**

“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting..”

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

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