

# A STUDY OF JAMES (3)

Concerning Trials (2)

**James 1:2-8**

## The Book of James – 1:1-4

- In our last lesson, we began a study of the text
- After introductory remarks, we noted James' call to count it all joy when you fall into various trials.
- We must know that the testing of our faith can produce patience (perseverance).
- We also noted a number of other "benefits" to facing trials, even sufferings.
- We concluded noting that our patience needs to be perfected.

## If any of you lacks wisdom (vs. 5)

- **Keep this in context – dealing with trials & suffering.**
- If any of you lacks wisdom –  
Wisdom is both knowledge and understanding. It involves comprehension and application.  
L&N(32.32) – the capacity to understand, and, as a result, to act wisely.”
- James is specifically addressing wisdom as it relates to our sufferings and trials (understanding why, how to properly deal with them, etc.)

## If any of you lacks wisdom (vs. 5)

- **Keep this in context – dealing with trials & suffering.**
- If any of you lacks wisdom –
- The better you understand something, the better equipped you are to deal with it.
- **NOTE:** Sometimes the answer is different than what you want.  
AND, you may not find all the answers you want (especially the why), but God knows them!

## If any of you lacks wisdom (vs. 5)

- Keep this in context – dealing with trials & suffering.
- Consider Job:
  - He desired to question God as to why he was suffering (**Job 31:35, 13:3, etc.**)
  - NOTE: The book never tells us that YHWH told Job (Perhaps He did), but Job remained faithful and never denied or doubted God.
- **James 3:17** – he will again address this “wisdom”.

## Let him ask of God (vs. 5)

- We are called upon to ask of God (through Jesus)
- Prayer - **Philippians 4:6-7**  
**1 Peter 5:7**  
**1 John 5:14-15, etc.**
- God WANTS us to understand Him and His will.  
To understand suffering and trials.
- He wants us to believe they CAN make us better and stronger. **Cf. Hebrews 12:11, Romans 5:3-5**

## Let him ask of God (vs. 5)

- Wisdom gifted to all liberally and without reproach
- It is available to all – **1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9, etc.**
- He gives abundantly and generously (always) – **e.g., Ephesians 3:20-21, 2 Corinthians 9:15**
- Without reproach – not criticizing or blaming.
  - God does not judge like us.
  - He is a loving & gracious God - **Cf. 2 Corinthians 9:8, 1 Timothy 1:14.**
- We will not wear God out by approaching Him
- NOTE: The word “ask” is present tense, as is God “gives” to all

## Let him ask of God (vs. 5)

- **Wisdom gifted to all liberally and without reproach**
- This wisdom is not mere knowledge.  
Knowledge is something we need and **AQUIRE** to wisely apply it!  
Wisdom is insight based on knowledge.
- The wisdom He gives will not be miraculously supplied – **cf. Matthew 7:7-11**
  - Note that we are to ask, seek and knock.

## Ask in faith with no doubting (vs. 6-8)

- **A condition of our requests**
- Trusting God is not always easy, but it is required.
  - When faith is lacking, He is not the problem!
  - We are!
- Are we believe the lies of Satan?
  - I am not worthy
  - God doesn't care about me
  - God can't help me
  - God is tired of me asking over and over, etc.

## Ask in faith with no doubting (vs. 6-8)

- **With no doubting!**
- Doubt can mean what we think of (question the certainty of something)  
OR it can be a hesitation to believe something (there is an obstacle in our way).
- When you go to God, do you genuinely believe He will hear you?
- If you are doubting while your pray, WHY?  
Is it because of Him or you?

## Ask in faith with no doubting (vs. 6-8)

- **With no doubting!**
- This is about approaching God confidently knowing He hears and cares, even if his answer is not the way we want
- **Cf. Matthew 26:39-42**  
**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**
- **Hebrews 11:6**, without faith we cannot please Him!

## Ask in faith with no doubting (vs. 6-8)

- With no doubting!
- *He is like the waves of the sea.*
  - There is instability with waves.
- *Let him not think he will receive anything from the Lord.*
  - God demands total commitment and trust.
- Often in scripture, rewards come with conditions!
  - **Hebrews 5:8-9,**
  - **Galatians 6:9, 2 Peter 1:8-11** – “If”
  - **James 4:3** – you ask amiss

## Ask in faith with no doubting (vs. 6-8)

- **With no doubting!**
- *He is a double minded man, unstable in all his ways*  
A word unique to James
- Our text and **James 4:8**
- Lit. “two souled”, **cf. Psalm 12:1-2** (a double heart)
- His mind is divided. He wants to trust God when its convenient, but at other times he trusts himself.

## Ask in faith with no doubting (vs. 6-8)

- With no doubting!
- *He is a double minded man, unstable in all his ways*
- Faith in God demands consistency!

**Matthew 6:24**

**Luke 9:23-24**, let him deny himself

**Titus 1:15-16** – contrasting the pure and the defiled. They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him

## Ask in faith with no doubting (vs. 6-8)

- **With no doubting!**
- How does this doubt factor into our requests to God?
- It may describe one not truly loyal to God.  
Often, his prayers are superficial,  
or without repentance  
Often, his problem is MORE than just making a request to God.  
**Cf. Matthew 19:21-22** – the rich, young ruler.

## Ask in faith with no doubting (vs. 6-8)

- **With no doubting!**
- How does this doubt factor into our requests to God?
- There may be doubts about God's love and promises!  
One says, "I am too sinful to be forgiven"
  - Man thinks in human terms, but God is different!
  - His grace is greater than our sins -  
**Romans 5:20-21, 5:8, Ephesians 2:4-6ff.**
  - He does not hold grudges like man does
  - He WANTS to forgive – **cf. Isaiah 1:18-20**
- OF course, we have to repent! **1 John 1:5-7**

## Ask in faith with no doubting (vs. 6-8)

- True faith is trusting Him unconditionally!
- *“Faith and doubt cannot continue to coexist in the same heart. In time, either the faith will destroy the doubt or the doubt will destroy the faith. The harboring of both faith and doubt removes from one all consolation and all hope that faith holds forth. Faith is “the assurance of things hoped for” (Hebrews 11:1), but it is only assurance for those who are willing to turn loose of doubt and to believe. Belief coupled with doubt is guaranteed to produce frustration and despair.” Duane Warden*

## Concluding thoughts!

- We all face trials from time to time. And most of us, will struggle in our minds to completely trust God. That is Satan working!
- HOW will you deal with your struggles?
  - Will you go to Him with trust, asking for wisdom to deal with your trials and struggles. Will you resolve to faithfully serve Him no matter what?
  - OR will you go to Him with a divided heart and let it consume you?

James is presenting us with a choice  
See **Deuteronomy 30:19-20**

Which one will you choose?

Let us pray!