

**Ask For Wisdom**  
Gracepointe Church  
Dr AW Tucker  
9-19-2021  
James 1:2-8

**Reading**

James 1:2–8

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

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.

**Prayer** -- Melton, T.G.. Valley of Vision Remix: Our Triune God, Vol. 1 (pp. 75-77). Hope Discipleship Press. Kindle Edition.

The Great Purpose of Life

Trinitarian Lord of all lasting Glory, Joy, and Power, There is one thing that deserves my greatest attention, and should stir up my most passionate desires; Which is to fully embrace the great purpose for which I am made: To glorify you and enjoy you forever. My life is not worth living, if it doesn't move toward this exalted purpose. Yet Lord, so few people pursue their joy in you! Most people seem to live for themselves. And so often, forgetting your grace, I live for myself as well. Without much regard for your glory or my true joy, which is attained by faith in Christ, and expressed in self-sacrificial love. I intensely desire and eagerly pursue the riches, honors, and pleasures of this life; believing that wealth, power, and entertainment, will make my soul happy in these empty things. Yet, I am made for so much more. My idols are false and delusional dreams! And when I choose to sleep in them, my dreams become nightmares that haunt the soul in me! While the truth is that happiness is only found in loving you, and being set apart for you alone, just as you are set apart for me.

Father of Glory, Son of Joy, and Spirit of Power Guard me from yielding to senseless temptation and deadly attractions! Shield me from the sensuality and stupor of this present dark world! It is a realm of uncontrollable confusion. It is a place of inexpressible sorrow. It is a vast desolate nothing, It is a hollow vanity, and an infinite empty, that chases after the wind.

Our time in this life is only a moment, - just a vapor, and all of its enjoyments are no more than an unfilled cup, fleeting bursts of sound, and fury, and ghostly gales, that bring no lasting hope or joy, in this shadowy world of men. So give me grace to always find rest, in my covenant Union with you; and to reject the delusion of gaining a great name, along with the dreams of

sinful pleasures, and the nightmares of worldly riches, that lead to nothing in the end. Instead, Help me to continuously know: that there can be no lasting joy in me, and no fulfilling purpose for me, apart from a life lived in you, by the graces found in you, through the glorious Son of Your Love. Amen

## Intro

You may have noticed some overlap, the reason for this is I wanted to make sure to keep it in context.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

## Faith in Testing is the focus James 1:1-16

James is really laying foundational truths that the reader will need the rest of His Letter.

James is going to deal with:

-Favoritism

-Word and Work

-Faith and Works

-Tounge how we use it

-War

-What faith looks like in all of it.

Last Week I talked about who James was and gave the purpose:

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Our out look on trails as a Christian ought to be Good!

Why: They will sanctify us making us steadfast.

## How are we as mere mortals to assure this Biblical outlook on trails?

### Ask for Wisdom

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;

V5. omits But that is in the Greek!

What James is saying, 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

BUT if any of you lacks wisdom!

I just want to raise my hand right here, and go ME ME!

James will have alot to teach us about wisdom: Just turn over

James 3:13–18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James defines wisdom and tells us if during trials you lack the wisdom to get sanctification out of trials ASK

God will not rebuke you for asking for Wisdom to grow and worship God!

Wisdom comes from Fear of the Lord

Proverbs 9:10

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Wisdom is In Jesus

Colossians 2:3

3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

When trails come, ask for Health, Wealth, Job, ---- ME ME ME ME

Ask for Wisdom to Know God more, Server Him Better, and to learn to be more like my savor during trials....

Turn you trail prayers into Godly prayers and not self centered, self worshipping prayers...

**How Do We Ask?**

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;

ASK Like God Is a Good God!

Wisdom begins with --- Fear of the Lord

We are to ask Him as a Good Generous God.

-In all other false religions and false gods this is a contradiction....

Illustration:

"Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion." "Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he-quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"...

"Safe?" said Mr Beaver ..."Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

— C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

James compels the Church, ASK God for wisdom, and believe He is able and will give it to you!

We just looked at the Positive! Now the Negative.

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;

God is God and he has supplied every breath, and you question His ability to give you wisdom for trails?

The One who Doubts falls into One of Two Categories (Biblically Speaking)...

1. They doubt and are tossed because they are wicked
  - a. Isaiah 57:20
  - b. 20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt.
2. They are Immature in the Lord
  - a. Ephesians 4:14
  - b. 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
  - c. Read this chapter in context at your leisure... Basically He gave the church and such for Your growth in Unity so that you wouldnt be tossed with every wind of doctrine

Conclusion is the same:

If you dont have faith that God will answer your prayers

7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

**Lack of Faith in God affects every facet of Life**

8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

1:8 double-minded man. A lit. translation of the Gr. expression that denotes having one's mind or soul divided between God and the world (see note on 4:4). This man is a hypocrite, who

occasionally believes in God but fails to trust Him when trials come, and thus receives nothing. The use of this expression in 4:8 makes it clear that it refers to an unbeliever. unstable. See notes on v. 6.

-MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). The MacArthur study Bible

There is no such thing as healthy Normative Christianity!  
You must have faith in God....

Perhaps you are struggling

Lord I Believe Help my Unbelief Mark 9:24 father with son who was demon possessed

### **From where do we receive faith?**

It is a work of the Spirit in You

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

It is a Grace from God to You

Eph 2:8 For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

It Grows by the Word of God

Rom 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Faith is given in salvation, but even John the Baptist Struggled!

Losing Sight of Jesus is a sinking Prospect: Illustration from Scriptures

Matthew 14:28–32

28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."

31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

### **Read to Conclusion**

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### **Benediction**

Christ is born! Tell forth His fame!

Christ from Heaven! His love proclaim!

Christ on earth! Exalt His Name!

Sing to the Lord, O world, with exultation!

Break forth in glad thanksgiving, every nation!

For He has triumphed gloriously!

COSMAS OF MAIUMA

Ritzema, E. (Ed.). (2013). 300 Quotations and Prayers for Christmas. Lexham Press.