



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

WISDOM TO ENDURE, PART 2, JAMES 1:5-8

COLORADO

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James shows us that in a trial, we need to look beyond the present sufferings to the eternal and count it all joy. As we remain and endure through adversity of all kinds, we must remember that God is maturing and purifying our character to be whole and complete, like Christ. But often the adversity that comes our way is difficult and we need wisdom to know how to endure it to God's purposeful end. That wisdom can only come from God. We must fall to our knees and ask, trusting that He will give wisdom to us generously and unconditionally to persevere to maturity. And we must trust that God will respond as He promises by giving us wisdom generously. We must come to Him in faith.

I. WISDOM TO ENDURE: PART 2- JAMES 1:5-8

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”
James 1:2-8

James exhorts believers to turn to God for wisdom as we endure through adversity. All we have to do is ask God for wisdom and He will unleash His wisdom on us unconditionally with no bargaining attached to the wisdom. Our Lord says in Matthew 7:7-11, “Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him?” Remember, godly wisdom does not automatically come just because we are believers. We are to pursue wisdom by asking God.

A. BUT HE MUST ASK IN FAITH— JAMES 1:6A

“But he must ask in faith ...” James 1:6a

James wants us to come to God with a believing heart. He wants us to ask God for wisdom with a real trust in God's character. That's not a half hearted prayer thrown up to get what we need. No! It's a deep dependent trust knowing Who God is and trusting in His purpose and promises.

When we come to God and ask for wisdom for the test or trial, we have to come in singleness of mind, believing God for the wisdom that He wants to freely give us. Faith is having a firm and resolute persuasion, conviction that produces an acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth and a personal

surrender to God's truth. What follows then is a conduct inspired by that surrender to the truth and of course the object of our faith is God.

B. WITHOUT ANY DOUBTING— JAMES 1:6B

“But he must ask in faith without any doubting...” James 1:6b

“doubting” Greek word “*diakrino*,” means to doubt, to be distinguished or divided in ones mind. Gives the sense of disputing with, to contend with another.

James contrasts faith with doubt in this verse. Doubt is defined as being divided in ones mind and really is not so much a weakness of faith but a lack of faith. There is a dispute between God's wisdom and my wisdom and what is really true. There is a disagreement between God and me. And the Greek verb suggests that this is not a single incident of doubt, but rather a continuous action on the subject's part and I am that subject if I doubt. The doubting is ongoing. This individual keeps on doubting.

God on the other hand calls us to a firm persuasion, a firm conviction about Who He is and His promises. If God promises to give us what we need, He will do so. Hebrews 11:1 says, “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*” There is no doubting whatsoever. Even though you can't see the answer, there is an absolute confidence that God will carry out what He promises. In fact, we can't even please God without faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, “*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*” If we come to God, we must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. So, as James says, we ask God for wisdom in faith, not doubting that God will give what He promises because doubting shows we don't acknowledge God as God or that He keeps His promises.

As believers, we cannot doubt God in His abilities or that He is trustworthy. Neither are we to argue or dispute with God as we request wisdom and pray to Him. We must come to God with genuine trust in His faithfulness to us. And if we lack wisdom in various trials or circumstances, because we will, we must be on our knees before the throne of God requesting for God's wisdom to endure through the trial to the maturity God desires to bring. Jesus said in Mark 11:22, “*Have faith in God.*” We can trust God. He knows what we need and if we ask for a fish, He won't give us a stone. (Matthew 7:7-11) James says that when we go to God for wisdom as to how to

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endure through adversity, He will give to all men generously and unconditionally. And we must come to God and ask in faith because to doubt says that I don't put confidence in God Who is entirely trustworthy. It means that I put more confidence in myself than in God or His word. And that is sin.

When I doubt God, it shows I trust my self more than God. I trust my wisdom or the wisdom of man more than God's. However, when I ask God for wisdom without doubting, that shows I surrender and acknowledge that God is in control and has allowed or brought this adversity my way for a reason. It will result in a lifestyle that is pleasing to Him if I submit to His will for my life.

C. COMPARISON OF FAITH VERSES DOUBTING –

JAMES 1:6C

"But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind." James 1:6

James goes on to compare the one who doubts, the one who wavers, the one who disputes or argues is like the "surf of the seas, driven and tossed by the wind." This is a vacillating person, an indecisive, inconsistent individual. "Driven" would refer to horizontally and "tossed" meaning vertically by the wind. James says that the one who doubts God is all over the page. One moment he wants to trust God and the next he is thinking that God cannot deal with his or her issues, or maybe doesn't even care. James calls this man a double minded man.

D. DOUBLE-MINDED – JAMES 1:7-8

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." James 1:5-8

When a person comes to God with a request for help and wisdom, yet doubts that God really cares or can provide what is needed, it is really no request at all. This reveals a lack of true faith in God to provide what He promises. James says this is a "double-minded man".

The only place this word is used in the New Testament is here in James. This doubting individual James describes probably claims to know Christ as His Savior, yet by his actions, he reveals that he does not. A double-minded man is one who has one foot in the world and one foot with God. As James will say later, he is a hearer of the Word and not a doer of the Word. Doubting shows a lack of faith and not a weakness of faith. This individual turns to self and not to God and has the continuous action of doubting in his life. He thinks one way and then thinks another way in reference to God. He speaks one way but acts another claiming to be a Christian but not living accordingly.

A double-minded man is "unstable". This refers to unsettled and unsteady. It is similar to a staggering drunk who cannot walk straight much less think straight. The word "ways" refers to a road in which one travels. It is a manner of life or actions. This man keeps on doubting God as the habit of his life. This person knows of God's Word and maybe has made a profession of faith without a true confession of faith. He is unwilling to submit himself wholly to the Lord Jesus Christ. A double-minded man reveals that in fact, he has no faith.

When we doubt God, it shows we trust ourselves more. A lack of faith turns to self and not to God. In contrast, James describes a believer who comes to God and asks for wisdom, asks God for direction to handle the trials that will come. This believer asks in faith knowing with absolute confidence that God will provide His way of escape through the adversity. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Of course there are times when we doubt God and that is sin. We have all been there. But there is a difference between a weak faith that God desires to deepen through testing verses no faith at all, which describes a double-minded man. A double-minded man is trying to serve two masters, two gods. Our Lord said in Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

We are not to be double-minded but rather single minded and focused in faith, on God. That's the challenge. Keep your eyes fixed unwaveringly on the Author and Perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) And He will indeed perfect, deepen and mature our faith.

"double-minded" Greek word "**dipsuchos**" meaning two souled, doubter.
