



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Wisdom for Perseverance (James 1:5-8)

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Wisdom is a requirement for leadership. The term means “knowledge that is effectively applied.” Wisdom is addressed over 200 times in the Bible. The Book of Proverbs is devoted to this teaching. James shows how wisdom keeps us persevering through testing and trials, even that one you are facing.

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge, skill, and hard work help us avoid many of life’s problems. Healthy eating, self-management techniques, and effective public relations will prevent common career failures. Personal trials, nevertheless, will occur. Persevering through a trial requires wisdom and a growing measure of faith. God is your source.

WISDOM TO PERSEVERE

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.¹

An effective approach to a complex challenge is to start at the beginning (John 1:3). Solomon instructs us here: **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).** The Old Testament term “fear” is best translated today as “reverence”. God introduced Himself to Abraham as God Almighty, El Shaddai in Hebrew (Genesis 17:1). Later, God affirmed His close relationship to Abraham by revealing His Name as LORD, Yahweh in Hebrew (Exodus 3:6, 6:2). How have you transitioned from recognizing God as all-powerful to knowing Him in a personal way? Jesus called His followers friends, sharing His purpose with them (John 15:15). What is your purpose during the time that you have here on earth?

SEEKING HUMBLY

James 1:6-8 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.²

God sent His son to pay our sin debt. Therefore we must believe that He will provide for us through trials. God is more willing to provide wisdom than we are to ask! What have you recently asked wisdom for?

God does not find fault with those to whom He has already forgiven. Like the parent who rewards an obedient child, our Father desires to give good gifts to those who ask (Matthew 7:7-11). How have you let a trial escalate before praying for God to intervene?

A believer who doubts is like surf or a floating object on the sea shore. Have you given sound advice to someone who questioned, even rejected it? The person who is not sure of his beliefs is subject to impulse, false teachings, deceit, and trickery (Ephesians 4:14). What steps are you taking to increase your trust in God (Hebrews 11:6)?

The double-minded person is trying to serve two gods, an impossible situation, like having one foot in each camp. He might appear to be a person of faith but turn to human resources during a severe trial.³ Ultimately, the double-minded person will be devoted to one god and despise the other (Matthew 6:24). God allowed His chosen nation, Israel, to be conquered when they chose to follow Baal rather than Yahweh (1Kings 18:21). Do you trust God (Proverbs 2:2)?

SUMMARY

1. Continually turn to God for wisdom. Keep the communications open and watch what He does through you as you grow in faith, insight, and discernment (Ephesians 1:17-18).
2. Strengthen your faith through consistent Scripture reading and prayer. Applications will increase and results will be profound. (James 3:17).
3. Do not be wise in your own eyes (Proverbs 3:5-7). Yahweh rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). If you call upon Him, He will listen (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

¹ The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica, Inc.) 2011.

² Ibid

³ John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible. (Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 2006. p1895.