

James 1:5-8

- Intro:**
- What have you observed about the epistle of James in the introductory verses of 1:1-4?
 - Does verse 5 begin a new thought, or is it connected with the thought of verses 2-4?
- Vs. 5**
- Does the “lack of wisdom” mentioned here contradict or conflict with Paul’s references to “Christ being the wisdom of God” (I Cor. 1:24) and “Christ having become to us wisdom” (I Cor. 1:30)?
 - If we already have wisdom in Christ, how can we “lack wisdom”?
 - Explain how these verses correlate with one another.
 - Note that Job, in the midst of his trials, sought wisdom (Job 28:12,28).
 - What does it mean that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Prov. 9:10)?
 - Is “wisdom” the same as...
 - knowledge?
 - understanding?
 - education?
 - application?
 - How do we receive wisdom? (cf. Prov. 2:6)
 - Is God’s granting of wisdom...
 - on the basis of merit?
 - on the basis of admitting our need?
 - on the basis of the severity of the situation?
 - Is God’s granting of wisdom...
 - with reluctance?
 - with reservation?
 - with expectation of reciprocity?
 - with threat of reprimand for failure to use properly?
 - How does this verse correlate with Matthew 7:7-11?
- Vs. 6**
- What does it mean to “ask (for wisdom) in faith without doubting”?
 - Is this...
 - demanding that God deal with the situation?
 - presumption that God will get us out of the situation?
 - a request for God’s deliverance from the situation?
 - certitude that God will “come through” on our behalf?
 - confident receptivity without reservation in the midst of the situation?
 - Is faith...
 - believing that God exists?
 - believing that God is all powerful and sufficient?
 - trusting that God will work?
 - being receptive to God’s activity?
 - Are “faith” and “doubt” antithetical to one another? (cf. Matt. 21:21,22; Mk. 11:24)
 - Does “doubting” refer to...
 - questioning the existence of God?
 - questioning the power, ability, or sufficiency of God?
 - questioning the character of God?
 - How does the figurative metaphor of “the surf of the sea” explain doubt? (cf. Eph. 4:4)

- Vs. 7**
- Why does “doubt” disallow the expectation of God’s action?
 - Does Hebrew 11:6 give some insight into the above question?
 - How can a person ask God to act...
 - if that person does not believe that.....God exists?
 - ...God is who He is?
 - ...God is able and sufficient to act?
 - if that person intends to take all necessary action by his own power and self-effort?
- Vs. 8**
- How is the doubting person a “double-minded person”?
 - Could the duplicity or divided loyalty be expressed in one of these ways?
 - “I believe that God exists, but I don’t believe He can act in my situation.”?
 - “I believe that God exists and He is sufficient to act, but I don’t believe He is concerned about every little detail and situation of my life.”?
 - “I believe that God can act, but I intend to rely on my own ability to act in this situation.”?
 - How does “doubt” create instability?
- Conc.**
- Do these verses relate to the practical reactive responses that we make to the situations of life?
 - Are there presently any situations in your life that you are questioning God’s ability or willingness to act within, and therefore need to seek God’s wisdom?