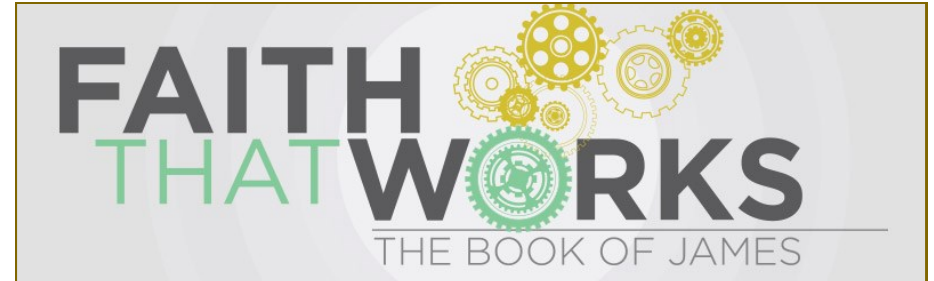


Reflection Questions: Do I truly want to be matured through my trials? If so, why don't I ask God for wisdom more frequently? How am I strengthening my relationship with God right now? Am I utilizing the power of prayer to maintain my spiritual strength so that when a trial comes along I'll be better prepared to handle it?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



#4 Lack Wisdom? Ask! (1:5-8)

Sermon
Notes

January 27, 2019

Quotes to Ponder

Since we see that the Lord does not so require from us what is above our strength, but that He is ready to help us, provided we ask, let us, therefore, learn whenever He commands anything, to ask of Him the power to perform it.

Douglas Moo

James promises that God does not mock or reproach us when we request wisdom, so there is no need to feel shame when coming to Him. He will not belittle our stupidity.

Craig Blomberg

Sure, you'll face difficulty. God is prying open your fingers so you'll let go of your dreams, rest in His comforts, and take up His call.

Paul David Tripp

The mark of wisdom is to know you're not wise, to know you don't know much about life, to know God is far wiser than you.

Timothy Keller

We are all so ready to go to books, to go to men, to go to ceremonies, to anything except to God.... Consequently, the text does not say, 'Let him ask books,' nor 'ask priests,' but, 'let him ask of God.'

Charles Spurgeon

We grow in wisdom when, trusting Him, we learn to be submissive to His Word and ways, and live in prayerful dependence upon Him.

Sinclair Ferguson

It is the Lord's loving desire to impart divine understanding abundantly to His faithful saints. That is surely one of the most beautiful and encouraging promises in all of Scripture.

John MacArthur

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convinced you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. What is the connection in James' thinking between trials (*James 1:2-4*) and wisdom (*James 1:5-8*)?

3. What does the Bible mean by *wisdom* according to the following verses?
Job 28:28 — *Proverbs 2:6* —

Psalm 111:10 — *Proverbs 3:13-14* —

Proverbs 1:7 — *Proverbs 9:10* —

4. According to *1 Corinthians 1:24* and *30*, who is the *wisdom of God*?

5. What does James stress about God in *James 1:5* that makes us able to ask for wisdom with hopeful expectation?

6. How do the following verses describe God?
John 3:16 — *Romans 8:32* —

Acts 17:25 —

7. What does James tell us to do in *James 5:13*?

8. Does God promise to give us complete clarity on every trial we face (*James 1:5*)? Explain.

9. Why are we so often so quick to turn to the world's wisdom when God offers His wisdom to us?

10. Why are *faith* and *doubt* contrasted in *James 1:6*?

11. What does *Romans 4:20* say about Abraham?

Does this mean that Abraham never had times of doubts? Explain.

12. What do the following verses say about *doubt*?
Matthew 14:31 — *Mark 11:23* —

Matthew 21:21 — *Romans 14:23* —

Matthew 28:17 —

13. What does it mean to be *double-minded* (*James 1:8*)?

14. What is the *double-minded* person's loyalty divided between?

15. Who should not expect to receive anything from God (*James 1:6-8*)? Why?

16. How does James' teaching (*James 1:2-8*) reassure us that we can be sure of the purpose of God's during trials?