

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.
James 1:5-8 (NIV)

I Lack Wisdom

Here I am again God, lacking wisdom. There is no “if” to the question of whether I lack wisdom or not. Nothing could be more certain than that I lack wisdom and I need your help. About the dumbest thing that I could do is to think that I have all I need within myself to live this life for you. Fortunately, I’ve made enough mistakes and taken my share of crazy detours to know that I most certainly need your help. So here I am crying out to you for help.

How do you think I will respond to your cry? At one time I thought you might say, “is that you again?” But now I know that’s not true at all. I’m sure that you are glad that I have come to you asking for your help. **You’ve got that right. Why do you think I’m glad?** Within my asking there are several underlying convictions all of which I think please you. **Tell me what they are.** First, my asking for wisdom from you is an admission that I don’t have wisdom. Second, my asking you for wisdom is an acknowledgment that you are the source of all wisdom. Finally, my asking you for wisdom is in faith knowing that you love me and will give me wisdom without finding fault in me. **You are absolutely right. I am pleased with every one of the convictions underlying your asking me for wisdom.**

How do you think that I will answer your request for wisdom? I have a few ideas of how you will. **What are they?** I believe that you will make me wise as I spend time with you in your word. I believe that when I stop to ask you for wisdom in specific situations, you will show me the right decisions to make. I believe that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct my life as I watch, wait, and listen for His voice prompting me along life’s journey. **Is that it?** Well, I also believe that you will give me wisdom in ways that I also cannot even conceive of or guess. **Yes, you are right, my wisdom will be given to you in ways that you are aware and unaware of. But there is one thing you must be certain of.** What’s that? **I have heard and will answer your prayer.**

Heavenly Father, in the past I have tried to face trials in life with my own wisdom and strength. That has been a big mistake that I’m learning from. Help me to come to you in faith to ask for and receive all the wisdom that I need. Amen

Wisdom*Ask God*

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

NIV

James 1:5-8

Wisdom*Ask God*

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 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. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

ESV

James 1:5-8

Wisdom*Ask Our Generous God*

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

NLT

James 1:5-8

Wisdom*Ask Of God*

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

NKJV

James 1:5-8

Wisdom*Ask God*

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

NRSV

James 1:5-8

Wisdom*Pray To The Father*

If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.

MSG

James 1:5-8

Wisdom*Ask Of The Giving God*

If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of the giving God [Who gives] to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding, and it will be given him. Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind. For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord, [For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides].

AMP

James 1:5-8

Wisdom*Ask Him*

If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it. But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you, for a doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind; and every decision you then make will be uncertain, as you turn first this way and then that. If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer.

TLB

James 1:5-8

Wisdom*Ask Of God*

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.

NASB

James 1:5-8

Wisdom*Ask God*

But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous and enjoys giving to all people, so he will give you wisdom. But when you ask God, you must believe and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind. Such doubters are thinking two different things at the same time, and they cannot decide about anything they do. They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord.

NCV

James 1:5-8

Ask God

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Wisdom – James 1:5-8

In Context: Read James 1

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. James 1:5-8

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

If any | of you | lacks wisdom, | he should | ask God, | who gives | generously to all | without | finding fault, | and | it will be | given to him. | But when | he asks, | he must believe | and | not doubt, | because | he who doubts | is like | a wave | of the sea, | blown and | tossed | by the wind. | That man | should not | think | he will | receive anything | from the Lord; | he is | a double-minded | man, | unstable | in all | he does. James 1:5-8

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Heavenly Father, in the past I have tried to face trials in life with my own wisdom and strength. That has been a big mistake that I'm learning from. Help me to come to you in faith to ask for and receive all the wisdom that I need. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What trials have caused you to cry out to God to ask Him for wisdom to know how to deal with them?

When have you tried to face trials without asking God to give you wisdom to deal with them?

Why is it a good thing to come to realize that you don't have all the wisdom you need to face trials in life?

How has God given you wisdom to help you to overcome a trial that you were facing?

How will God's past help through trials give you courage and faith to face current and future trials?

What can you expect to receive from God when you doubt and don't believe that He will answer your prayers?

How has having faith in God and coming to ask Him for His help brought stability into your life?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

In faith ask God for the wisdom that you will need to face and overcome trials in life.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that God will give you all the wisdom that you need to face and overcome trials in life.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how God has answered your prayers and given you wisdom in life.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you ask God for all the wisdom you will need from Him today.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Heavenly Father, I am asking you for all the wisdom that I will need from you today.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Heavenly Father, what wisdom will I need from you as I follow and serve you today?
