

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)

Sure

Do you lack wisdom? That's a very good question. **It's very important that you are very sure of your answer.** Why is that? **If you are not completely convinced that you need wisdom then you will never really ask for it from me. Oh, you may make some feeble, half-hearted request for wisdom from me. You will not really expect an answer from me. You almost certainly will not wait for me to answer your request.** I get it. **What makes you so certain that you really do lack wisdom?** My experience tells me that I lack wisdom. **Are you telling me that you have at least enough wisdom to know that you desperately lack wisdom?** I guess so. **Why is that?** Take a look at my life and the history of my own decisions. When I have relied solely on my own wisdom I have had a history of making dumb decisions and stupid mistakes. My decision-making has been astoundingly poor. **I've noticed that. So, there is no, "if" about it? You are absolutely certain that you need wisdom from me.** Yes, I have no doubt in my mind that I need all the wisdom that you will give to me. **Is your need for wisdom strong enough for you to passionately ask me for my wisdom?** Yes, it is. **Is your need for wisdom strong enough for you to wait for me to answer your request?** Yes, without a doubt. **That is very good. For you to ever receive wisdom from me you must be sure enough that you need it so that you will ask for it. For you to ever receive wisdom from me you must also be sure enough that you need it that you will wait for it from me.** I will ask for and wait for your wisdom. **That is very good, but there is more that you must be sure of if you want my wisdom.** What else must I be sure of?

Do you believe that I will hear and answer your request for wisdom? Do you believe that I will generously give you my wisdom when you ask for it? Are you sure that I give you wisdom without finding fault in you for asking for it? Lord, I believe that you will give me wisdom when I ask for it. I have no doubt about that. I have no doubt in you. I know that if I don't have faith in you I shouldn't bother asking you for wisdom. **Why is that?** You will not answer a doubting, double minded request for wisdom. **That's right.** I am sure that I need your wisdom. I am sure that you will give me your wisdom as I ask you for it. So, I am asking you for your wisdom now. I am waiting for your wisdom now. **That is very good.**

Lord, there is no "if" about it. I'm sure I need your wisdom. I'm also sure you will generously give me your wisdom when I ask for it. I'm asking you for your wisdom. Guard and guide my life with your wisdom. Stabilize my thoughts and ways with your wisdom. Amen

If *Lacks Wisdom*

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

If *Need Wisdom*

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

If *Lacking In Wisdom*

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

If *Deficient In Wisdom*

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

If *Lacks Wisdom*

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

If *Lacks Wisdom*

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

If *Lacks Wisdom*

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

If *You Don't Know What You Are Doing*

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

If *Wants To Know What God Wants You To Do*

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

If *Needs Wisdom*

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

Lacks Wisdom

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

If – 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?)***

Lord, there is no “if” about it. I’m sure I need your wisdom. I’m also sure you will generously give me your wisdom when I ask for it. I’m asking you for your wisdom. Guard and guide my life with your wisdom. Stabilize my thoughts and ways with your wisdom. Amen

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

When have trials caused you to cry out to God to ask Him for His wisdom?

How sure are you that you don't have the wisdom that you need to live your life?

How sure are you that God will generously give you His wisdom when you ask Him for it?

When has God generously responded to your prayers and given you the wisdom you needed from Him?

What will you receive from God is you do not believe that He will generously give you His wisdom?

When have you waited to take action until you received wisdom from God?

How has God’s wisdom brought stability to your thoughts and your ways?

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

With a heart filled with faith ask God for His wisdom to guard and guide your life.

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

Have faith that God will generously give you His wisdom when you ask Him for it.

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

Share with another person or your small group how God has generously given you His wisdom.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

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 that you will need from Him.

Prayer To Carry

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

Lord, with a heart filled with faith I am asking you for your wisdom to guard and guide my life.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, I am asking for your wisdom to guard and guide my life as I follow you.
