

*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. James 1:5-8 (NLT)*

## Just Ask

If I need wisdom? Is that a joke or a trick question? **Why do you say that?** There is no “if” about it. I desperately need wisdom. I don’t need just a little bit of wisdom here and there. There isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t need wisdom. **What has convinced you of that fact?** I have made so many mistakes. I have taken so many missteps. I have gone left when I should have gone right. I have stayed put when I should have moved forward. I have started when I should have stopped. Life and all its difficulties and trials has shown me one thing. **What’s that?** I desperately need wisdom. I don’t need the best wisdom that the world offers either. **What’s wrong with worldly wisdom?** I have more than enough worldly wisdom. My abundance of so called worldly wisdom is what has led to my many mistakes and missteps. Worldly wisdom stands in direct opposition to you. Worldly wisdom is sinful, self-centered, and self-sufficient. Worldly wisdom has led me to think that I can rely on myself. Worldly wisdom has convinced me that I don’t need to come to you to ask you for your wisdom. **That is a terrible mistake.** Yes, I know that now. **At least you have learned that you need my wisdom.** Yes, I have no doubts about that. **That’s good.**

So, I’m going to live my life differently. **How so?** I am not going to rely on myself. I am not going to proudly think that I have all the wisdom that I need. I am going to confess and admit that I desperately need your wisdom. **That is a good start.** I’m not stopping there. **Tell me more.** I am going to come to you every day to ask you for your wisdom. Some days I’m even going to ask you to show me what kind of wisdom I need. **What do you mean by that?** There will be days, I’m sure, when I won’t even know how to pray for wisdom. I will need your wisdom to even know how to pray. **Yes, you will. I will guide your prayers.** I believe that you will guide my prayers. **What else do you believe?** I believe that you will hear and answer my prayers. I believe that you will generously give me all the wisdom I will need when I come and ask you for it. **Yes, I will. You can be sure of that.** Thank you so much for hearing and answering my prayers for wisdom.

*Lord, the difficulties and trials of life have clearly shown to me that I lack wisdom. I cannot rely on myself. I desperately need your help. I do believe that you will hear and answer my prayer. I do believe that you will generously give me all the wisdom I need. Amen*

**Be** *Must Believe*

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

**Be** *Without Doubting*

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

**Be** *Sure*

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

**Be** *With No Doubting*

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

**Be** *Never Doubting*

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

**Be** *Without A Second Thought*

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

**Be** *No Wavering*

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

**Be** *Sure*

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

**Be** *Without Any Doubting*

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

**Be** *Not Doubt*

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

# Sure

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Be** – 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 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. James 1:5-8 (NLT)

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

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. James 1:5-8 (NLT)

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

Lord, the difficulties and trials of life have clearly shown to me that I lack wisdom. I cannot rely on myself. I desperately need your help. I do believe that you will hear and answer my prayers. I do believe that you will generously give me all the wisdom I will need. Amen

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

**How are you making it your daily habit to expectantly ask God for wisdom?**

When have you foolishly thought that you did not need to ask God for wisdom?

When have you suffered because you relied on your wisdom instead of asking God for His wisdom?

How have difficulties and trials in life helped you to know with certainty that you need God’s wisdom?

What can you expect to receive from God if you don’t pray a faith filled prayer asking Him for wisdom?

**What faith filled prayers for wisdom are you praying to God right now?**

**How has God heard and answered your prayers by generously giving you the wisdom you needed?**

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

Make it your daily habit to pray faith filled prayers asking God to give you His wisdom.

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

Have faith that God will generously give you all the wisdom you need 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 heard and answered your prayers for 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... \_\_\_\_\_

Sure

James 1

Year \_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

## Journal

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

### What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

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### What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

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### Prayer Of Blessing

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

*May you pray faith filled prayers asking for wisdom from God.*

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### Prayer To Carry

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

*Heavenly Father, I will pray faith filled prayers asking for wisdom from you.*

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### What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

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### A Question To Ask God

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Heavenly Father, what faith filled prayers asking for wisdom should I pray to you today?*

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