

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)

Asking For Wisdom

There is no doubt about it. **There is no doubt about what?** There is no doubt that I lack wisdom. Nothing can hide that fact. **Why is that?** I have left a trail of dumb decisions and foolish mistakes. **Like what?** I have gone where I should not have gone. I have done what I should not have done. I have failed to go where I should have gone. I have failed to do what I should have done. **Why have you not asked me for wisdom?** There is an easy answer to that question. **Let me hear your answer.** My own foolish pride has kept me from asking you for wisdom. It is very difficult to ask for wisdom if you are not willing to admit that you need it. I have pridefully and foolishly and stubbornly refused to ask you for wisdom. **That's not good.** No, it's not.

What will you do now? What will you do because you now know that you desperately need wisdom? What will you do because you now know that I will hear and generously answer your prayers for wisdom? I will humbly admit that I need wisdom. With a heart full of faith, I will come to ask you for wisdom. **Why is that important?** I also know that you will not answer doubt filled prayers. If I pray prayers that are filled with doubt, I should not expect that I will receive anything from you. If I am going to pray a prayer filled with doubt, I might as well not pray at all. **Why is that?** You will not hear and answer prayers that are filled with doubt. **No, I will not.**

So, you are going to do three things. You are going to admit your need for wisdom. You are going to pray a faithful filled prayers asking me for wisdom. You are going to wait with faithful expectation that I will hear and generously answer your prayers, is all of this correct? Yes, Lord. That is exactly what I will do. That is exactly how I will pray. That is exactly what I will believe, without a doubt. **That is very good. I will hear and generously answer your prayers asking me for wisdom.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I have been filled with pride. I have thought I was quite wise. I have foolishly relied on my own limited wisdom. I have made dumb decisions and foolish mistakes. No more. With a heart filled with faith, I am now asking you for all the wisdom I will need in life. Amen

Prayer*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

Prayer*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

Prayer*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

Prayer*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

Prayer*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

Prayer*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

Prayer*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

Prayer*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

Prayer*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

Prayer*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

Day ____ Date _____

Prayer – 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 (NIV)

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 (NIV)

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

Lord, I have been filled with pride. I have thought I was quite wise. I have foolishly relied on my own limited wisdom. I have made dumb decisions and foolish mistakes. No more. With a heart filled with faith, I am now asking you for all the wisdom I will need in life. Amen

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

When have you been slow to admit that you need wisdom from God?

When have you become painfully aware of your lack of wisdom?

What foolish decisions have you made because you relied solely on your limited wisdom?

What prayer for wisdom would you like to pray to God right now?

Why can you be certain that God will hear and answer your prayer for wisdom?

What can you expect to receive from God when you pray prayers that are filled with doubt?

When has God obviously heard and generously answered your prayer for wisdom?

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

With a heart filled with faith, ask God for all the wisdom that you need from Him.

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 heard and answered your prayer 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... _____

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 come to God to ask Him for all the wisdom you will need in life.

Prayer To Carry

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

Heavenly Father, I am asking you now to give me the wisdom I will need in life.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Heavenly Father, what wisdom do I need from you today?
