

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)

No Doubt

Well, there is no doubt about me. **What do you mean by saying there is no doubt about you?** I desperately need wisdom. There is no if's, and's or but's about my lack of wisdom. I especially need wisdom when I am in a difficult trial. I certainly need wisdom when I am in the middle of a storm. **Was this surprising news to you? Did this come as a shocking revelation? Did you need to become thoroughly convinced on this point?** I would say no, but my actions would say otherwise. **How so?** You have seen me desperately needing wisdom. You have seen me in the middle of a storm. You have watched me in a difficult trial. **What is your point?** Did I cry out to you? Did I ask for your help? Did I come to rely on you? No, I did not. I relied on myself. I kept silent. I did not ask for directions. I did not receive your guidance. Instead, I trusted in my own wisdom. **How did that work out for you?** Not, well. It was a painful, educational experience. **How so?** I had a front row seat to observe my lack of wisdom. I came to clearly see that I needed your help. So, I desperately cried out to you. I asked for your help. **That was a valuable lesson.** Yes, it was. I'm sad to say that every so often, I must revisit this lesson. I must see again the foolishness of relying on myself and not coming to fully place all my trust in you. But, I am learning, slowly but surely. You have been kind and forgiving and gracious teacher. For that I give you all my thanks and praise. **That is very good.**

What else have you learned? There is no doubt about you. **What do you mean by saying that about me?** You are good and kind. You are gracious. You are generous. You are forgiving. When I have cried out to you for wisdom you have generously heard and answered my prayer. You have not rejected me. You have not condemned me. You have not told me that I should have been better and smarter and wiser. All of that would have been true. But, you have been with me to help me. You have guarded and guided me through every difficulty. You have held on to me as I have held on to you. Not once, have you left me on my own. Not once, have you told me that I could or should fend for myself. You have drawn me close to you. You have helped me to persevere. You have helped me to place all my faith and trust in you. For that I give you all my thanks and praise. **That is very good.**

Heavenly Father, there is no question about it, I lack wisdom. I especially need all your wisdom as I go through trials in life. No longer will I rely on myself. With a heart filled with faith, I will ask for all your wisdom. I know without a doubt that you will help me. Amen

Becoming Like Christ*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

Becoming Like Christ *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

Becoming Like Christ*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

Becoming Like Christ *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

Becoming Like Christ*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

Becoming Like Christ*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

Becoming Like Christ*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

Becoming Like Christ *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

Becoming Like Christ*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

Becoming Like Christ*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 _____

Becoming Like Christ – 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?)***

Heavenly Father, there is no question about it, I lack wisdom. I especially need all your wisdom as I go through trials in life. No longer will I rely on myself. With a heart filled with faith, I will ask for all your wisdom. I know without a doubt that you will help me. Amen

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

What has helped or hindered your ability to rely on God as you have gone through trials?

Why do some grow bitter and others better as a result of the trials they have gone through?

Why can you maintain a joyful attitude even as you go through significant trials?

When have you desperately cried out to God for His wisdom as you have gone through trials in life?

How have trials in life caused you to persevere and grow deeper and stronger in your faith in God?

How have you relied on God’s wisdom to bring you through difficult trials?

What will you receive from God if you pray prayers that are filled with doubt?

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

Be quick to ask for and rely on wisdom your Heavenly Father will give you as you go through trials in life.

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

Have faith that your Heavenly Father will generously give you wisdom as you go through trials in life.

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

Share with another person or your small group what wisdom you have received from your Heavenly Father.

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 for and rely on God's wisdom as you go through trials.

Prayer To Carry

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

Heavenly Father, I will ask for and rely on your wisdom as I go through trials.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Heavenly, what wisdom will you give me to rely on as I go through trials?
