

*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)*

## **Nothing Could Be More Obvious**

*I will start by admitting that nothing could be more obvious. Nothing could be more glaringly apparent. Nothing could be more easily recognizable. **What are you talking about? What is so obvious and glaring apparent, and easily recognizable?** I am not wise. Now, I want to make one additional point crystal clear before I go any further. **What point do you want to make?** My lack of wisdom is so obvious and glaringly apparent and easily recognizable to everyone else, except to me. That is how unwise I am. Or, I could also say that is how foolish I have been. But I should not stop at acknowledging my lack of wisdom and my foolishness. **Why is that?** There is something worse and darker and more sinister within in me. If I was only unwise and foolish that would be bad enough. But there is a sadder reason for my lack of wisdom and my large amount of foolishness. **What is that?** I am filled with pride. There, I have said it. I admit that my foolish pride has prevented me from asking you for wisdom because I have thought of myself as being wise. I have thought that I had no need of any help. I have been self-reliant and self-sufficient. I have been strong willed and independent. **That is not good.** I know. My lack of wisdom and my large amount of foolishness has caused me a great deal of pain. I cannot tell you how many unwise and foolish decisions I have made. **There is no need of that, I already know, and even far better than you know yourself.** Of that, I am sure.*

***What do you want to do now? How do you want to change your course?** Well, I think that I am where you want me to be. **Where is that?** I am freely admitting my lack of wisdom to you. **That's good.** I am also ready to take the next step that I know you want me to take. **What step is that?** I will ask you for the wisdom I need. I believe that you have brought me to this place. You have given me the desire to place all my faith and hope and trust in you. I want to leave my pride and foolishness behind me. I want to rely on you and your wisdom. So here I am, humbly asking you for your wisdom. Guide all my thoughts and words and actions by your wisdom. Guide the entire course of my life by your wisdom. Help me to know and do your will. Help me to live the life that you have called me to live. **I will hear and answer your prayer. I will generously give you, my wisdom.** Thank you, Heavenly Father.*

*Heavenly Father, there is one thing of which I am certain. There is one thing of which I have no doubt. I am not wise. I lack wisdom. Of that there is no question. So, with a heart filled with faith, I will ask you for your wisdom. Guide my life by your wisdom. Amen*

**The Prayer Filled Life** *If Any Of You 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

**The Prayer Filled Life** *If You 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

**The Prayer Filled Life** *If Any Of You Is 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

**The Prayer Filled Life** *If Any Of You Is 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

**The Prayer Filled Life** *If Any Of You 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

**The Prayer Filled Life** *If Any Of You 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

**The Prayer Filled Life** *If Any Of You 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

**The Prayer Filled Life** *If You Don't Know What You're 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

**The Prayer Filled Life** *Want 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

**The Prayer Filled Life** *If Any Of You 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

**If Any Of You Lacks Wisdom** Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The Prayer Filled Life** – 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)

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

Heavenly Father, there is one thing of which I am certain. There is one thing of which I have no doubt. I am not wise. I lack wisdom. Of that there is no question. So, with a heart filled with faith, I will ask you for your wisdom. Guide my life by your wisdom. Amen

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

When have you been slow to realize that you lacked wisdom?

What happened to help you to clearly realize that you lacked wisdom?

**When has foolish pride blinded you from seeing and acknowledging your lack of wisdom?**

What foolish mistakes have you made because you relied solely on your own wisdom?

**How are you now asking for and relying on God's wisdom to guide the course of your life?**

What good decisions have you made because you asked for and received wisdom from God?

**What prayer for wisdom would you like to pray to your Heavenly Father right now?**

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

Admit to God that you are not wise and ask Him to give you wisdom to guide all your thoughts, words, and actions.

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

Have faith that God will give you all the wisdom you will need to guide the course of your life.

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

Share with another person or your small group how you are asking for and relying on God's wisdom.

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**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?**

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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, with a heart filled with faith, ask God for His wisdom.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

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

*Heavenly Father, with a heart filled with faith, I will ask for and rely on your wisdom.*

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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, how will you generously give me all the wisdom I need today?*

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