

*Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. 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 1:2-8 (NLT2)*

## **Be Filled With Joy**

If I need anything, I need wisdom. **Why do you say that?** On my own, I am not wise. I make dumb mistakes. I make foolish decisions. I take missteps from which I must stop, go back, and retrace my steps and start over. I can't tell you how many times I have thought, or spoken, or acted unwisely. My foolish ways have cost me time, wasted resources, and worn me out. At no time do I need your wisdom more than when I am going through trials. On those occasions, I need to cry out to you in prayer to ask you for wisdom. **Maybe that is one of the blessings of going through trials.** How so? **Trials show you that you need wisdom, Trials cause you to ask for my help. Trials make you come to rely on me. If you never went through trials or if you never needed my help, would you cry out to me and ask for my help? Let me ask you another question.** I'm listening. **When has your faith grown stronger? Has your faith grown stronger when the water is calm, and everything is smooth sailing or has your faith grown stronger in the storms of life when you have taken refuge in me? My faith has grown stronger when I have been forced to take refuge in you. Then maybe, you should consider giving thanks for the trails have come your way. I could ask you a few more questions.** Go ahead. **Has your endurance, as one of my followers, strengthened as you have gone through trials in life? Have you developed a more intimate relationship with me as you have suffered trials? Has your prayer life grown deeper as you have prayed faith filled prayers when storms swirled all around you? Have you learned to hold on to me more tightly as you have gone through all the twists and turns and ups and downs of life? Yes, my endurance has strengthened, my relationship with you become more intimate, my prayer life grown deeper and my hold on you stronger as I have gone through trials in life. Then, for that rejoice. Then, for that give thanks. Then, for that be filled with joy for how trails have performed a good work in your life.** That I will do. **That will be very good.** Thank you, Heavenly Father.

*Heavenly Father, there is no doubt, I need your wisdom, especially when I am going through trials in life. I will, with a heart filled with faith, cry out to you for help. I will rely on you to give me wisdom, grow my faith, and strengthen my endurance as I follow you. Amen*

## The Virtuous Life

Ask God

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 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 1:2-8

## The Virtuous Life

Ask Our Generous God

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. 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 1:2-8

## The Virtuous Life

Ask God

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. 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 1:2-8

## The Virtuous Life

Ask Of The Giving God

Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations. Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience. But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing. 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 1:2-8

## Promises

Ask Of God

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 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 1:2-8

## The Virtuous Life

Ask God

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 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 1:2-8

## The Virtuous Life

Ask Of God

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 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 1:2-8

## The Virtuous Life

Pray To The Father

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. 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 1:2-8

## The Virtuous Life

Be Happy

Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete. 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 1:2-8

## Promises

Ask God

My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience. Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need. 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 1:2-8

# Ask Our Generous God

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

**The Virtuous Life** – James 1:2-8

**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?)***

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. 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 1:2-8

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

Dear brothers and sisters, | when troubles come your way, | consider it | an opportunity for great joy. | For you know that |when your faith is tested, | your endurance has a chance to grow. | So let it grow, | for when your endurance is fully developed, | you will be perfect and complete, | needing nothing. | 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 1:2-8

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

Heavenly Father, there is no doubt, I need your wisdom, especially when I am going through trials in life. I will, with a heart filled with faith, cry out to you for help. I will rely on you to give me wisdom, grow my faith, and strengthen my endurance as I follow you. Amen

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

**Why are trials coming your way an opportunity for you to experience great joy?**

How has the testing of your faith given endurance a chance to grow in you?

How has the testing of your faith and the growth of your endurance been perfecting you as a follower of Christ?

**When have you most needed wisdom as your faith was being tested?**

How have you cried out to God and asked Him for wisdom as you have gone through trials in life?

**What wisdom has God generously given to you when you asked Him for His help?**

Why is it critically important that your prayers to God are faith filled rather than doubt filled?

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

Rely on your Heavenly Father to give you wisdom, grow your faith, and strengthen your endurance as you pray to Him.

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**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 faithfully ask Him for it.

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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 your Heavenly Father has given you wisdom in the trials of life.

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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 ask God for wisdom as you go through trials in life.*

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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 you to give me wisdom as I go through trials in life.*

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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 wisdom will you give me today as I rely fully on you?*

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