

## Ask For Wisdom

[Jas 1:5-8 ESV] 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 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. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

### I. Intro

- A. Steadfast...Stay in the Abide
- B. Wisdom...
  1. **Another very important and little celebrated truth**
  2. Brings power when received
  3. Brings STEADFASTNESS when practiced
- C. Gaining wisdom should be a desire for each of us.
- D. **Wisdom comes from learning from experiences and applying that education to life.**
- E. **Quote: Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit, wisdom is understanding it doesn't belong in a fruit salad.**

### II. Text

- A. **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God: SEEMS SO SIMPLE!**
- B. **Who gives generously to all: WHAT A GREAT PROMISE**
- C. And it will be given: God will give us what we need, when we need it, for His purposes
- D. **But, ask in faith, with no doubting:**
  1. **The power to receive wisdom from God is unlocked by our faith and trust in Him**
  2. **This seems to be a problem for many of us.**
  3. **So, we have to go to God and ask the hard questions: Why do I doubt?**
- E. **For the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind**
  1. **This is not an accusation so much as it is a statement of the fact.**
  2. **When we lack faith and trust in our Lord we are scattered in our ministry, actions, thoughts, direction.**
  3. **When we do not lack faith, and find ourselves growing in faith, we are on mission with direction that cannot be swayed to the right or the left.**
    - a) **We are not susceptible to whims or trends**
    - b) **We are driven with the directive of God!**
- F. **The doubter will receive no wisdom, because he is double minded, and unstable in all his ways**
  1. **Dipsychos: two minds...divided mind...(di-psyche)**
  2. **a mind of faith vs. a mind of self reliance**
  3. **A spiritual mind vs. a carnal mind**
  4. **Double Minded Illustration:**
    - a) **There was a story on the news about the dangers of fireworks.**
    - b) **They demonstrated the dangers and showed the violent nature of fireworks in the hands of the wrong people.**
    - c) **They put a firework in a watermelon and exploded it, while hiding behind a protective barrier**
    - d) **Watermelon particles went EVERYWHERE...**

- e) **My mind: thats really dangerous and shouldn't be in the hands of the wrong person**
- f) **Also my mind: where can I but that?**
- g) **Also Also my mind: Am I the one they are warning you about?**

III. Point

**A. Ask, Seek, Knock**

1. [Mat 7:7-11 ESV] 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!
2. **If you desire WISDOM, go to the source, and HE will provide**
3. The battle seems to be in:
  - a) Seeking wisdom from sources that are counterfeit
  - b) Not seeking wisdom because your fear change and growth
  - c) Assuming that everything is wisdom and being overloaded with information
4. God to God, be still, believe!
5. Don't be afraid to ask, seek, or Knock, believe God and Go to him!
  - a) Does this mean there will never be any hesitation...NO!
  - b) But, it does point out your foundation, if you truly believe, God will work through the process with you.

**B. Faith, Trust, Belief**

1. Ask In Faith
2. [Mat 6:33 ESV] 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
3. **What are you seeking first? What do you desire to achieve?**
  - a) **The answer to these questions will indicate your direction.**
    - (1) **Do you seek to honor God? Ask Him how you should serve.**
    - (2) **Do you seek to serve the mission and cause of the church? Ask God how to use your gifts, and then get going.**
  - b) **SEEK WISDOM, BELIEVE GOD WILL PROVIDE!**
4. **What do you Believe? Who do you believe? Why do you believe?**
  - a) **I believe God**
  - b) **I believe the Gospel**
  - c) **I believe the Bible**
  - d) **I believe Christ is still at work today**
5. I believe that, you may also believe that, so lets go to battle with doubt!

**C. Doubt, Instability, Double-Minded**

1. [Mat 6:24 ESV] 24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.
2. **When you doubt:**
  - a) **You limit the work of God in your life**
  - b) **You serve your flesh, and give a nod to God**
  - c) **You engage in whatever activities you want, and ask God not to interfere with your life, but to bless what you are already doing...that doesn't work**
3. When you doubt, you are inviting God to work in the areas of your life that do not require much faith, but refusing to let Him work in the areas that challenge you.
4. **Start a growth process of faith:**

- a) **Listen to God, and follow Him and His truth.**
  - b) **Do things that seem to be too big for you to do...because, thats how faith works in you.**
  - c) **If all of your dreams and plans can be accomplished in the strength of your flesh, your plans and dreams are not big enough!**
5. Peter walks on water:
- a) [Mat 14:22-33 ESV] 22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."
  - b) Peter had faith, but looked at the wind and waves and doubt crept in...while he was walking on water...Jesus rescued him.
6. Remember the beginning of this sermon:
- a) Wisdom comes from learning from experiences and applying that education to life.
  - b) **Grow in FAITH, GROW in WISDOM...Grow STEADFAST!**

IV. Close

- A. Surrender that part of your mind that you continue to hang on to control
- B. Give it to God, get out of your own way, let God do His work through you!

**C. Peter got out of the Boat...**

- 1. He believed Jesus, then he saw the wind and the waves**
- 2. His belief was interrupted by the flesh.**
- 3. And He began to sink.**
- 4. But thats not the end of the story...**
- 5. Jesus lifted him up while in his disbelief.**