

## 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. Brings power when received
  - 2. 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.
  - 1. Wisdom is more than experiences
  - 2. Wisdom is more than age
  - 3. Wisdom involves divine illumination to knowledge
  - 4. Wisdom is the using of knowledge properly and effectively
- E. Quotes:
  - 1. Knowledge is information from the past, Wisdom is the key to the future
  - 2. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit, wisdom is understanding it doesn't belong in a fruit salad.
  - 3. Knowledge is knowing the street you are about to cross is one way, wisdom is understanding you need to look both directions...because you live in Sherman.

### 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. Without reproach: WHY NOT ASK????
  - 1. Reproach: Webster's: to express disappointment in or displeasure with (a person) for conduct that is blameworthy or in need of amendment.
  - 2. Reproach will come from the world:
    - a) Sermon on the Mount: [Mat 5:11 ESV] 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
    - b) The idea that we can go to God and ask for wisdom without the fear of reproach is contrasted with what we get in the world
- D. And it will be given: God will give us what we need, when we need it, for His purposes
- E. 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?
- F. 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!
- G. The doubter will receive no wisdom, because he is double minded, and unstable in all his ways
  - 1. Dipsychos: two minds...divided mind...
  - 2. a mind of faith vs. a mind of self reliance

3. A spiritual mind vs. a carnal mind

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!

B. Faith, Trust, Belief

1. [Mat 6:33 ESV] 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
2. 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!
3. 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
4. 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.
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. 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!