

TITLE: James (Lesson 3)

TEXT: James 1:5-8

INTRO: "If you want wisdom—the ability to see your life from God's point of view—then James said you ought to ask God to give you wisdom." *Dr. Robert Jeffress*

I. (vs. 5) The Source of Wisdom

A. What is wisdom?

1. Wisdom is much more than knowledge.
2. Wisdom includes the ability to apply Biblical knowledge to life.
3. Wisdom includes sensitivity and obedience to the Spirit's leading.

B. True wisdom only comes from God.

1. We live in a world of educated fools.
2. Only God has the answers we seek for.

NOTE: Consider Job. He lost his prosperity, his children, and his health. He was left with a wife whose counsel was to "curse God, and die." His friends proceeded to opine why this happened and Job himself asked the question "why".

C. We all need wisdom.

1. Wisdom focuses on the "Who" and not the "Why".

NOTE: Matt. 26:42

II. (vs. 6a) The Secret to Wisdom

A. The secret to wisdom is faith.

NOTE: Robert Jeffress defines faith as the confidence that God is going to do what He has promised to do. See Heb. 11:1, 39; I John 5:14-15

B. Trust in God's purpose in and sovereignty over our lives.

NOTE: Knowing Christ as Savior and Lord and obeying His Word. Ps. 119:98-100

C. We need to ask God.

NOTE: Consider Solomon. I Kings 3:5-12; 16-28

III. (vs. 6b-8) The Scarcity of Wisdom.

A. (vs. 6) A man who wavers is driven by circumstances and indecision.

NOTE: James is describing a doubter. See Heb. 11:6; Matt. 21:21-22

1. He lacks sincerity and faith.

B. (vs. 7) A doubter has no right to expect anything from God.

1. He has chosen not to trust God.

NOTE: "James calls the person who doubts 'that man.' The wording exhibits disdain; that man doubts the truthfulness of God's power and promises. He asks God for wisdom but doubts whether God will give it to him. One moment he prays, but the next moment he ignores God. His prayer—if it is prayer—is not supported by faith." *Simon Kistemaker*

C. (vs. 8) "A double minded man" can't make up his mind.

NOTE: Consider Elijah. 1 Kings 18:21 "We can live a single-minded life of trust in God where every experience, including the trials we fall into, is another step in the process of becoming mature and complete persons." *Life Application Bible Commentary*

CONCLUSION: My friend God has given us a promise in verse 5. A wonderful example of this is found in the story recorded in Mark 9:17-24.