

Ask For Wisdom

10-12-25

James 1:5 (ESV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

This is a clear promise from God that every believer should embrace with their whole heart. God will generously give us wisdom. Here is a humorous way to distinguish between wisdom and knowledge. Knowledge is to know that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is to know not to put a tomato in a fruit salad. Wisdom the ability to understand a situation and to discern what the next move should be. Wisdom is knowing what to do next. All true wisdom begins with reverence for the LORD.

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

With this clear starting point, only one thing keeps us from receiving God's wisdom: doubt.

James 1:6 (ESV)

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.

When we ask for wisdom, “We must believe and not doubt.” This is having doubt before we even ask. If we have doubt before we ask, James says don’t bother to even ask, because we are unstable like splashing waves of the sea.

James 1:7–8 (ESV)

⁷ For that person who doubts must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

“Double Mined literally means Double Souled.” Like having two souls this person is divided in his mind and wavers between two opinions. One moment he voices the yes of faith; the next moment it is the no of disbelief. Faith for James is a single-minded commitment to God that trusts in God because God is God. The person who doubts is doubting God in general, saying, “Does God really act *today*?” The doubter is one who lives with inner conflict between trust and distrust of God. This sort of person is unstable in all that he does. In his personal life, his business life, his social life, as well as in his spiritual life, indecisiveness negates his effectiveness.

God promises wisdom when we ask. God speaks through HIS Scripture, the Bible, in a multitude of ways. Jesus HIMSELF will open Scripture to guide us. While reading HE may put a burning in our heart speaking specifically to us, or have some verses jump off the page grasping our attention. Also, the Holy Spirit is active bringing to mind thoughts applicable to our situation. God also uses godly counsel and physical circumstance. Almost 100% of the time God will tell us the first step.

Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

However, He will not tell us step two until we have taken step one. God gives us more light when we move in the light already given.

John 16:12 (ESV)

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

God will purposefully hold back certain things until we are in a position to receive them.

He will have teach us some things in step one before we can take step two.

We don't ever have to be confused about hearing God. We only hear from three sources: the flesh, Satan, or God.

#1 The flesh is our own mind, emotions, desires, and agenda.

Galatians 5:17 (ESV)

The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit.

The famous man of prayer, George Mueller, said that before he prayed, he would come to a place of full acceptance and peace for each option before him. At that time, he would ask for guidance. Only then was he able to hear God.

#2 Satan; Surely a believer, the church, can and will be able to determine when Satan is speaking lies. A Christian should never be fooled.

2 Timothy 2:26 (ESV)

May they come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

**#3 Removing the influence of our flesh and Satan,
the clarity of God speaking truth will be evident.**

John 16:13 (ESV)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Walking in faith and wisdom is pretty straight forward and really not that hard.

Philippians 3:15–16 (ESV)

¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

The mature think this way.

When we are off base God will reveal it to us.

Be confident and continue in what we know.

It is all about knowing Jesus.

Acts 4:12 (ESV)

And there is salvation in no one else, but Jesus for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.