

Ask God

1-9-22

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.

We have learned that God answers Prayer immediately, moving with passion with smoke coming out of HIS nostrils. We ask anything and we will receive whatever we ask. Now we see that we are to ask God for wisdom, and HE will give it to us. This is an absolute promise that God will give us wisdom without question and generously. This statement is as true as God's promise to forgive our sins.

We need to understand the difference between knowledge and wisdom. As an example, Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing not to put tomatoes in a fruit salad. We ask God for wisdom, and HE will tell you not to put a tomato in fruit salad.

However, there is one caveat that keeps us from receiving Wisdom from God.

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.

Faith ties us to God's heart. When we are tied to God's heart there is not any doubt. We are in tune with God's heart. Therefore, we ask for wisdom and we will receive wisdom 100% of the time. Make a decision and walk in that decision. Do not waiver between two opinions. Doubting is proof of unbelief. We are like waves of the sea. This has nothing to do with intellectual capacity, emotional highs, knowledge of doctrine, doing more research, this is all about commitment and trusting God.

A man of doubt is a man full of inner conflict and he will not receive wisdom from the LORD.

James 1:7 (ESV)

For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.

Our commitment and trust in God enable us to have deep confidence and face every issue the world throws at us. We ask God from wisdom. **Our responsibility is to have the Consistency of unwavering faith. Great example of unwavering faith without doubt is when Nebuchadnezzar threaten to throw Daniel's friends into the burning furnace for not worshipping his golden idle.**

Daniel 3:17–18 (ESV)

¹⁷ Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.

These men were men of faith that did not doubt. A man of doubt will not receive anything from the LORD. The LORD gives a clear definition of a man of doubt.

James 1:8 (ESV)

He is a double-minded man, unstable in “all” his ways.

Double-minded literally means Doubled souled. These people are unstable in “all” that they do. **Their indecisiveness negates their effectiveness. Growing in faith is not the same thing as doubting.**

Mark 9:23–24 (ESV)

²³ And Jesus said to a man, “All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the man cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

Understand the difference.

This is not oscillating between belief and unbelief. This man is not asking about two directions but asking to grow in faith.

This is not unbelief. This is asking God for wisdom.

Ask God! As Christians we are different from the world. We trust the God of all creation who answers our prayers and who generously gives us wisdom. This is because we and our families have already made a decision. We confidently declare:

Joshua 24:15 (ESV)

Choose this day whom you will serve. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.