

St. Rose Community Church
EQUIP

Women of the Word

Study with Prayer

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.

James 1:5-8

Observation

- What repeated or emphasized words or phrases did you mark in the passage?

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Observation

-Did you see any attributes of God in the passage?

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Observation

- What words or phrases did you mark that you did not understand fully?

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.

Observation

- Did you see any contrasts or comparisons?

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.

Observation

- What key transition words did you find?

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.

Comprehension: Annotation

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.

Doubt x2

God gives wisdom / is wise
God is generous

Reproach?

Double-minded?

Metaphor: A doubting person is like a wave of the sea blown and tossed by the wind.

If, and, but, for, for

Comprehension: Define

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.

Reproach : disapproval

Double-minded :
wavering, uncertain,
doubting

divided in interest

torn between God & the
world

Repeated + Emphasized Words + Ideas

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.

Doubt - not trusting God, trusting in the world or your own abilities. Divided loyalties.

Doubt makes a person like a *wave of the sea*.

Something being *driven and tossed by the wind* is a picture of instability and uncertainty.

Not steadfast (previous context)

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

-Cross References

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James 1:5-8

Cross References

Wisdom: 1 Kings 3:9-12, Proverbs 2:3-6

Ask God: Matthew 7:7-11; James 4:2-3

Gives generously: Proverbs 28:5

Ask in faith: Mark 11:24

Not doubting: Matthew 21:21

Like a wave of the sea: Isaiah 57:20, Ephesians 4:11-14

Double-Minded: James 4:8

Unstable: 2 Peter 2:14; 3:16

Cross References

Wisdom: 1 Kings 3:9-12

Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

Cross References

Ask God: Matthew 7:7-11

“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 he 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!

Cross References

Asking without Doubting - Matthew 21:21

And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen.

Cross References like a wave of the sea - Ephesians 4:12-14

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 **so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.**

Cross References Context of James → James 4

Asking with the Right Motives - James 4:2-3

You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Double Minded - James 4:8

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Cross References Unstable - 2 Peter 2:14 + 3:16

2 Peter 2:14 They [false teachers] have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!

2 Peter 3:16 As he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

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

James 1:5-8

Interpretation

How would you summarize the passage?

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.

James 1:5-8

Application: How should I respond?

What does this passage teach you about God?

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.

James 1:5-8

What does this passage teach you about God?

v.5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

-Wisdom is from God

-God is generous

God generously gives his children the good gift of his wisdom, which includes the understanding, insight or knowledge to discern between good and evil.

(1 Kings 3:9-12, Proverbs 2:3-6)

Application

How does that aspect of God's character change your view of self?

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- I am not all wise like God. I “lack wisdom” and I need to pray for his wisdom.
- I will be inclined to doubt God but I should pray in faith, trusting him.
- I am not stable apart from trusting in God, I will be blown and tossed if my loyalties are divided.
- I am inclined to be double-minded, with my mind and heart is divided between my flesh and spirit, God and the world. I need to recognize the things in me that are taking my mind and heart away from God.

Application

What should I do in response?

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.

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-Praise God for being all-wise and giving generously.

-Repent of my doubt and double-mindedness.

-Ask God to help me trust him more (increase my faith), to give me his wisdom, to make my mind and heart to not be divided, but to be devoted to Him.

Study with Prayer

Approaching scripture apart from prayer is one of the most counter productive things we can do.

- Matt Smethurst

Study with Prayer

Praying to God as we seek to study his word is the key link between the natural act of studying and the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.

Things happen because we pray, that would not happen if we did not pray. That is what James means when he says, “You do not have, because you do not ask” (James 4:2). And it is what Jesus means when he says, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matt. 7:7). This does not make us God—as if our will were the final arbiter of what happens in the world. But it does mean that our requests, made to God in faith, are part of the way God causes his will to happen. That includes his gracious will in helping us see the fullness of the meaning of his word—its basic message and its glory.

-John Piper, Reading the Bible Supernaturally

Study with Prayer

The highest picture you can have of man is to look at him on his knees waiting upon god. That is the highest achievement of man, the noblest activity...Man is never greater than when he is in communion and contact with God.”

-Martin Loyd-Jones

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James 1:5-8

To Do This Week

Practice C.I.A. on James 1:9-11

Focus on the Role of Prayer in your Study Time

Read Chapter 8 *Putting it all Together*

Answer Questions for Chapter 8

Groups

Answer Chapter 7 Questions on Prayer

Pray as a group for God's wisdom

If you have time:

Share about your experience studying James on your own so far.