

The First Baptist Church of Columbus
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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted April 25, 2021

T I T L E: WISDOM IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS

T E X T: James 1:5-8

I. WISDOM IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS BEGINS WITH A DISCIPLINED PRAYER LIFE MOTIVATED BY THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WISDOM FROM THE LORD IS A DAILY NEED.

A. It is a daily need because the wisdom of man, Christian or otherwise, in any situation is inadequate.

"...lacks wisdom..." — Condition of first class, assumed as true, and present passive indicative to be destitute of, with ablative case. "If anyone falls short of wisdom." A banking figure, to have a shortage of wisdom (not just knowledge, but wisdom, the practical use of knowledge).

Let him ask Present active imperative of "let him keep on asking." Of God "From (from beside) God," ablative case.

B. Wisdom from above is a daily need if anyone expects to navigate life this side of heaven according to God's perspective since wisdom as defined and understood from a biblical sense is a gift from the Lord and far exceeds the so-called wisdom of man even if the Lord were to be foolish regarding any situation.

Proverbs 2:6 ---- For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

1 Corinthians 1:21–25 ---- 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles

foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

When it comes to responding biblically to life situations especially involving trials, etc., our thinking should never be "Lord, I've got this!" Do not neglect your prayer life and do not forget to ask for His wisdom for the day.

C. A lack of wisdom does not necessarily equate to a lack of knowledge but a lack of wise and practical application of what we know which the Lord promises to resolve once we ask for His wisdom through prayer.

We know what we know but sometimes we do not know what to do with what we know. Thus, a need for His input, insight, etc. (Wisdom)

Romans 8:26 ---- In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

II. WISDOM FROM THE LORD IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS IS INDISPENSABLE BECAUSE TRIALS INEVITABLY CHALLENGE THE INTEGRITY OF OUR FAITH IN SOME FORM OR FASHION.

James informs us that trials in this life are inevitable. (Not if but when..)

James also informs us that trials come in many ways.

James also informs us that God graciously and liberally grants wisdom without any kind of faultfinding.

A. When the integrity of our faith is being challenged our first goal is to be steadfastly faithful and thus pleasing to the Lord.

Hebrews 11:6 ---- And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Hebrews 10:24–25 ---- 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

B. When the integrity of our faith is being challenged by whomever or whatever or a combination thereof rest assured it is not without purpose as permitted and choreographed by the loving hand of God. V. 4

Developing Christian maturity or character in our lives --- reflecting the image of Christ in our life is His goal. (ENDURANCE)

C. When the integrity of our faith is being challenged beware of the temptation to doubt the promise of wisdom and the liberality of God in dispensing to us His wise counsel. VV. 6-8

“Unstable” It means unsteady, fickle, staggering, reeling like a drunken man.

Surely to James such “doubt” is no mark of intellectuality.

Do you consider yourself to be one of those enlightened individuals of today’s culture?

HOW ENLIGHTENED ARE YOU? —

If you can live without caffeine, If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains, If you can resist complaining, If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time, If you can take criticism and blame without resentment, If you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him or her, If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend, If you can face the world without lies and deceit, If you can conquer tension without medical help, If you can sleep without the aid of drugs, If you can honestly say that deep in your heart you have no prejudice against creed, color, religion, or politics, --Then you have almost reached the same level of spiritual development as your dog!

Conclusion: