

## What I Need the Most During these Crazy Days (2)

James 1:2-8

Pastor Byron Hand



<sup>2</sup> **Count** it all joy, my brothers, when you **meet** trials of **various kinds**,  
<sup>3</sup> for you **know** that the testing of your faith **produces steadfastness**.  
<sup>4</sup> And **let steadfastness have its full effect**, that you may be **perfect and complete, lacking in nothing**.  
<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask God, who **gives generously to all without reproach**, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is **a double-minded man**, unstable in all his ways.

“Why do trials overwhelm us? Why do we sometimes cave in? What things block the joy of enduring life in the crucible?” **The answer? Our lack of wisdom.**” Charles Swindoll

### What is Wisdom?

- D. Edmond Hiebert: “As a Jew, James viewed wisdom as related to the practice of righteousness in daily life. It is the moral discernment that enables the believer to meet life and its trials with decisions and actions consistent with God’s will.”
- Charles Swindoll: “Wisdom can be defined as the ability to view life from God’s perspective.”
- Ellenburg and Morgan: “Here, without question, he speaks of **wisdom as the practical use of the knowledge we have**, the **ability to respond to life’s challenges from God’s perspective**. Or, as one sage put it, ‘Knowledge tells us how to take things apart; wisdom shows us how to put them together.’”

**Proverbs 3:18 – Wisdom** - She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

**Proverbs 4:7** - The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.

**Proverbs 24:14** Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

### 3 Principles:

1. **Our Need: We Desperately Need WISDOM** - James 1:5 (ESV) “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God”
  - 1 Kings 3
  - “Helping People discover the unexpected Joy of desperate Dependence on Jesus”
2. **Our Hope: We Joyfully Trust our GOOD and GRACIOUS God** - James 1:5 (ESV) “... let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”

- **James 1:5 (Amplified Bible)** “If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of **the giving God [Who gives]** to everyone **liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding**, and it will be given him.”
- **Richardson** “However poor, ignorant, mistaken, or confused believers may be, they are commanded to pray for wisdom. This command is matched by the certainty of receiving wisdom from God.”

**3. Our Challenge: Our Faith is often WEAK** - James 1:6-8 (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. 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.”

### **How do I Get this WISDOM I So Desperately Need?**

#### **1. I need to PUT the LORD first in my Life:**

**Proverbs 9:10** - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

**Psalm 111:10** - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

**Proverbs 15:33** - The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

#### **2. I Need to KNOW and PRACTICE God’s Word in my Life**

**John 13:17** - If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

**2 Sam. 22:31** - This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

**James 1:25** - But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

#### **3. I Need to get GODLY/WISE people into my Life**

**Proverbs 13:20** Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

**Proverbs 18:24** One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

**1 Corinthians 15:33** Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

“You become like the 5 people you spend the most time with. Choose carefully.”