

Sermon Notes

Outside Help

James 1:5-8

The Promise of Wisdom

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5 NASB)

The Condition for Wisdom

“But let him ask in faith without any doubting for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea which is driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:6-8 NASB)

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week’s sermon? What didn’t you understand?
2. Where in your life would you like to make a fresh start? Why?

Going Deeper

3. Please read James 1:5. How does this verse fit into the previous context (vs. 2-4)? What is wisdom? Why would we need wisdom when we encounter trials? What has been your experience in making decisions under pressure? Where does James say we will find the wisdom we need? How does James’ view of the source of wisdom compare with what you think?
4. What does James remind us we need to believe about God when we need wisdom? In what decisions are you most aware of your need for wisdom?
5. Please read James 1:6-8. What is the condition for receiving wisdom from God? What do you think James means by “without any doubting?” How does the idea of the double-minded man clarify what James means by “let him ask in faith without any doubting?”

6. Can you think of a recent decision when you struggled with doublemindedness? How did you resolve it?
7. Why must we resolve to do God's will before we can know God's will?

Application

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?