



Living Wisely
3rd in the “James” Series
James 1:5-8
May 7, 2023
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage, God teaches us about wisdom and exhorts us to pursue a life lived in accordance with God.

The Text: James 1:5-8

1) One of the primary virtues of a “mature” Christian is wisdom (v. 5).

Lofty Definition: Wisdom as a way of life that is in harmony with both the created order and God’s redemptive work in Christ.

On-the-Ground Definition: Wisdom is living life in accordance with God.

- Wisdom guides the **mind** of the Christian to think God’s thoughts.
- Wisdom guides the **eyes** of the Christian to see God’s will.
- Wisdom guides the **heart** of the Christian to desire God’s love.
- Wisdom guides the **hands** of the Christian to do God’s commands.

2) The first and foundational step toward wisdom is believing – not doubting – that God is the source and supplier of wisdom (vv. 6-8).

a) Christians and Doubt

b) Christians and “Double-Mindedness”

Response

Lord, we ask you to give wisdom to us generously and to help us believe and not doubt.

Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.

- 1) Wisdom can be succinctly defined as living life in accordance with God. What does wisdom look like in practice?

- 2) V. 5 makes clear that wisdom comes from God. How does God give us wisdom, and how can we know that God's gift of wisdom has been received?

- 3) Why is James concerned about doubt (vv. 6-8), and how can we know if a doubter is honestly wrestling with sincere questions of faith or unwilling to accept God's answers as true and final?

- 4) How is a wise person the opposite of a "double-minded" person who has divided allegiances?

- 5) In what other ways, if any, did this passage speak into your life to teach, rebuke, correct, or train you in righteousness (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)?

Further study this week: Passages related to the message of this week's text: Proverbs 2:1-6 (Mon); Proverbs 4:5-9 (Tues); Proverbs 9:10 (Wed); Proverbs 19:8 (Thurs); Psalm 19:7 (Fri).