

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Wisdom, Faith, and Humility in Times of Trouble**  
**James 1:5-11**

Last time...the pastor of the Church in Jerusalem was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write a no nonsense letter to the entire Church facing hard times

1. Persecution by the Jews
2. Persecution by the Romans (Gov't)
3. Famine
4. Simmering division regarding the Gospel...Grace vs Law

A very direct opening:

Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations  
Consider and think calmly that it is delightful when (not if) we are surrounded by various adversities and trials/tribulations because the testing of our faith accomplishes patience (cheerful endurance and continuance)

Patience is a key objective of the Lord's good work in our lives...  
a work requiring refining fire  
Luke 21:19    **In your patience possess ye your souls.** (time of great trial)

This time...Knowing that, we need wisdom, faith, and humility in times of trouble  
As he will be for the entire letter, James is quite direct, mincing no words

We are in James 1

v5    lack wisdom...ask of God...shall be given:

In times of trouble,

- during hard times from both within and without
- during times of waiting on the Lord for Him to move

we need wisdom to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ

The wisdom we need is not learned at "higher institutions of learning" or provided by "think tanks" or any other institution of man  
The wisdom we need comes directly from God our Creator

When we are unsure what to do in troublesome times, we can simply ask God for wisdom

He most assuredly will give us His wisdom, for that is His desire  
He will give bountifully and generously, not begrudgingly  
He will not scorn or rebuke or mock us for asking

The Lord will give us His wisdom by

- The Holy Spirit
  - testifies of Jesus Christ
  - brings into our remembrance the things Jesus has said to us
  - teach us all things
  - guides us in all truth
  - help and comfort us
- The Word of God
  - Prov 1:1-2, 7
  - Prov 3:13-18, 21-26
  - Prov 4:5-9, 13
  - Prov 8:13-21

Wisdom, the knowledge of what is right and true coupled with just action, comes only from God and is received when God's perspective overshadows our perspective and leads us in the way (Is 55:8-11)

The devil and all the principalities and powers and rulers of darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph 6:12)...  
against whom we fight (The Church is a fighting unit!)...  
wage war against the wisdom of God with – deception and lies

In response to Matt 24:3, Jesus said Matt 24:4, which has its greatest fulfillment in the person of the counterfeit christ in the last days

We live and minister and witness in the days Jesus warned His followers about  
These are “beginning of sorrows” times of spiritual deception and lies

Again, James 1 is a very timely Scripture for us in 2020  
In these days, the Church/we need wisdom  
I do not have answers, I have questions  
But one thing I know: we need God's wisdom!

1. Can we understand what is going on with COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a real illness

I do not in any way mean to minimize it, especially for those who have lost loved ones or who battled or are battling this illness

The Gov't mandates in response to COVID-19 have been

- shut down the economy
  - 40% of people making less than \$50,000 per year lost their jobs, their livelihood
  - “public health policy” that was devastating to many families

- quarantine and isolation
  - rise in mental illnesses
  - rise in depression
  - spike in suicides and drugs/alcohol abuse
- social distancing
  - masks when social distancing cannot be maintained, even when it can be
- ban on gatherings larger than 10 or 50
  - targeting churches and synagogues in
    - liberal cities (NYC, LA, Chicago)
    - liberal states (CA, VA, WA, OR, etc)
  - can go to Home Depot or gather to protest or riot but cannot go to a house of faith (most important place to go!)

Yet Medical professionals are divided on the effectiveness of all of these “strategies”

We the citizens were suddenly exposed to

- the power of fear and panic
- totalitarian rule (Executive orders, no democratic process)
- sudden, global change
- distress of nations, with perplexity

Yet the statistical reporting of COVID-19 cases used by Gov’ts to justify their actions is fraught with doubts and questions and irregularities and outright falsehoods

And, this week, we hear Los Angeles County Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer saying the country's largest county would not reopen its public schools until "after the election."

Does that sound like a public health statement or a political statement?

Can we discern that much of what is said about COVID-19 by the media and by politicians is about...politics, NOT public health policy?

With all the confusion, uncertainties, inconsistencies, controversies, the media hype, and the political rhetoric, the truth is obscured, maybe even covered

## Some observations

### a. CDC

[ CDC Report 8/30/20 ]

Where are the Gov't mandates regarding these other threats to life?

### b. Raw numbers

7.8B people on earth (worldometers.info)

905K have died to COVID-19 (the liberal number)

We have a 99.988% odds of NOT dying from COVID-19

The Bubonic Plague killed 75-200M in Europe in  
14<sup>th</sup> Century, upwards of 50% of the population

### c. Global deaths YTD (Health category of worldometers.info)

[ world wide deaths YTD ]

To repeat...I do not in any way mean to minimize COVID-19, especially  
for those who have lost loved ones or who are battling this illness

But...are we being deceived?

is there something else in play that fuels the hype and rhetoric?

We need the wisdom of God

## 2. Can we understand the social unrest and racial tension in our society?

To protest a social wrong is right and proper

To riot, burn, and loot is devilish

James 3:13-18

Prov 15:24

Prov 17:11a

Prov 17:15

Is 5:20-21

political leaders fanning the flames of rebellion

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put  
darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for  
sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto *them that are* wise in  
their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

Is there spiritual deception behind the racial tensions and social unrest?

We need the wisdom of God

Therefore...we must ask God, Who does know the truth, for His wisdom in these  
troublesome days whose hallmark, according to Jesus Christ,  
is spiritual deception

And...His wisdom is but for the asking the Father Who desires to bless His children!

So...don't be shy and don't be proud...just ask

Matt 21:22     **And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.**

v6-7     ask in faith, nothing wavering:

How do we ask the Father for the wisdom He desires us to have?

- by faith
  - Heb 11:6
  - believing He is the Source of wisdom
  - believing His wisdom (WoG) is the Truth (WoG)
  - believing He will generously give us wisdom
- nothing wavering
  - doubting nothing ala Acts 10:20
  - not staggering at the promise of God (Rom 4:13-22)
  - not doubting, like the Church did in Mary's house in Acts 12
  - not fearful – fear is contrary to faith, faith is the antidote for fear
  - 2 Tim 1:12-14

Because he who doubts/fears is agitated and driven by every wind of doctrine

- by the deception of the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2)
- by the sleight of men by cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive (Eph 4:14)

Stated plainly and directly: The person who doubts God and is fearful cannot expect to be given the wisdom of God

Matt 21:21     **If ye have faith, and doubt not...it shall be done.**

v8     double-minded man is unstable:

A double minded person

- I believe...I don't believe
- Start...stop
- Forward...backward
- Dependent...independent
- One eye on Jesus and one eye on the storm or both eyes on the storm  
Peter in Matt 14:22-33
- Vacillates, staggers...spiritually minded and carnally minded  
Rom 8:5-8

Such a person is unstable

- not constant
- not continuing
- not consistent
- like shifting sand rather than immovable rock

How do we become single-minded, having the mind of Christ?

- Surrender
  - our will surrendered to His
  - “all in” with Jesus and “hands off” the world
  - after all, we are His purchased possession, no matter what  
Rom 14:18 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord;  
and whether we die, we die unto the Lord:  
whether we live therefore, or die, we are the  
Lord's
- Feed/Strengthen the Spirit rather than the flesh
  - Word of God (1 Cor 14:3, Ps 86:11)
  - Prayer...listening and talking
  - Baptism of the Holy Spirit...who gives boldness (Acts 4:31)  
whereby we are “strong and of good courage”

In these troublesome times, we need

1. Wisdom
2. Faith

In addition, we need...humility

v9-11 low degree...the rich:

As James was recording these words of the Holy Spirit, the Church is facing  
persecution and famine and a simmering division about the Gospel  
The Church was being tested and purified

Then and now, to navigate these hard times as faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ,  
humility (the mind of Christ per Phil 2:5-11, Matt 11:28-30) is needed

Matt 23:12 **And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that  
shall humble himself shall be exalted.**

Luke 14:11

Luke 18:14

The humble person, the lowly person will be exalted, lifted up, cared for  
The rich person will be humbled...

- challenged like the Rich Young Ruler (Matt 19:16-26)
- their faith tested
  - Soil #2...shallow and able to bear fruit pleasing to the Father when the heat is on?
  - grass weathering a burning heat without losing its good suitability and its green appearance

Prov 11:2      *When* pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly *is* wisdom.

Prov 11:4      Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death

Prov 11:28     He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

Prov 15:33     The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom; and before honour *is* humility

### **Application/Lessons**

In troublesome and deceptive times like these, the Church and we as individual followers,

- are being tested and purified
- need wisdom, faith, and humility to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ
- must be in one accord with the Head of the Body, to have the mind of Jesus Christ

This is no time to doubt God and His ability to keep His promises

Jer 32:17      Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee:

Jer 32:27      Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Prov 14:8      The wisdom of the prudent *is* to understand his way: but the folly of fools *is* deceit.

This is no time to lean on our own understanding or to trust man

Ps 118:8-9     *It is* better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

*It is* better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Prov 12:15     The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel (the entire counsel of God) *is* wise

We need wisdom and discernment

We are, after all, a fighting unit!

Deception abounds but God's wisdom much more abounds

Rom 5:20-ish

Let us not be deceived, let us be wise and faithful and humble