



SCRIPTURE: James 1:5-11

SERIES: James

TITLE: Gospel Consistency

BIG IDEA: God's people meet trials and are encouraged to ask the Lord for wisdom to live a consistent and integrated life with an eternal focus.

TEXT

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶But 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. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass^[a] he will pass away. ¹¹For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

SUMMARY

Summary from Alec Motyer Commentary on the book of James:

“The other side of the wisdom which God will give is the ability to see things as they really are, to arrive at true definitions, to cease to live by what appears to be true and to live, instead, by what actually is the truth of the matter... James chose to illustrate his theme (2–4) by reference to poverty and wealth. He could equally have chosen any of life's contrasts—loneliness and companionship, long married life and unexpected bereavement, hope fulfilled and hope disappointed, work and unemployment. These are the endlessly varied testings (2) which make the colours in the tapestry of each life: family life and childlessness, marriage and singleness, health and illness. There is no end to the lists to be made and the contrasts to be drawn. Life is like that. How, then, are we to steer a straight path to the goal of maturity? How are we to see what is of stable worth, and what a tinsel of disappointment and loss? Only by the wisdom God gives, a wisdom that makes us see earth in the light of heaven, life in the light of eternal life, the flickering pattern of experience in the light of the steady reality of salvation. And wisdom is sought from God in the place of prayer.”¹

SWARTZ FBC LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE



¹ J. A. Motyer, [*The Message of James: The Tests of Faith*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1985), 45.

⁵If any of you **lacks wisdom**, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

1. IT'S WISE TO ASK FOR WISDOM

Application Question: In what areas of your life do you need to ask for the Lord's wisdom?

- What is God's attitude towards those who need wisdom?
- Why is it important to first see our need of wisdom?
- How is verse 5 linked to the first 4 verses?
- What are examples of wisdom the Lord will provide when we ask?

⁶But 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. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a **double-minded** man, unstable in all his ways.

2. GOSPEL WISDOM HAS ONLY ONE SOURCE

Application Question: Are you living a life marked by Gospel wisdom or a la carte wisdom?

- What does it mean to be double-minded?
- Why is it important to seek godly wisdom and not random wisdom from various places?
- Have you ever known what Scripture taught, but wished for a different teaching? Give an example.
- How does the account of Eve in the garden illustrate the temptation to seek wisdom apart from God?
 - o How do we do this today?

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3. WISDOM IS THE ABILITY TO SEE THROUGH THE FAÇADE OF THE TEMPORARY AND PURSUE WHAT IS ETERNAL.

Application Question: Is the wisdom you are applying helping you to live with Gospel perspective?

- What is the difference in success from God's view and the world's view?
- Why is it so difficult to see beyond the present?
- What temporary things are we tempted to place our hope in?
- Looking back, what trials or struggles have helped you develop an eternal perspective?