

**James 1:5-8**  
**What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do**  
**J.D. Farag**

Good morning and welcome to our Second Service. On Sunday morning we have two, the first of which is the Bible Prophecy Update that we do weekly. And then now Second Service is the sermon. We're going verse-by-verse through the Bible. We just last week started the Book of James, and today we are going to continue on.

We left off in verse 4 of Chapter 1. We're going to pick it up in verse 5, and Lord willing make it through to verse 8. So I'll ask those of you that are here if you're able to stand and you can follow along, as I read. If not, where you're seated is just fine.

Beginning in verse 5, James by the Holy Spirit writes, **"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But [verse 6] when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person [verse 7] should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do."**

You got to love James. By the time we're done with the Book of James, you're going to love James. Okay, so why don't we pray and we'll just ask God to bless our time together in His Word. If you would please join with me.

Father in heaven, thank You so much. Lord, thank You for James, for inspiring him by the Holy Spirit to write this letter for us, all of these generations later, to be so blessed and exhorted and encouraged and directed by it.

Lord, we are keenly aware that unless You by the Holy Spirit, get our attention - that's not my job - and keep and hold our attention that we're going to miss what it is that You have for us because our minds are going to wander and think about

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other things and the enemy is really good at doing that to us. But we want to ask You if You would help us with that so we can focus, concentrate, listen, here and take heed.

Lord, we want to give You our undivided attention because clearly what we just read here and what we're going to study here is so important that we get this and understand this because of what it's dealing with.

So Lord, please minister to us, speak to us, we pray in Jesus' name, amen and amen. You can be seated. Thank you.

So I want to talk with you today about what it is that we can do when we find ourselves in those very difficult and painful trials in our lives and we don't know what to do. So basically, we're going to talk about what to do when you don't know what to do.

It's not a play on words, by the way. I know it might sound like that, but the truth is in those times, we need to know God's will and we need God's wisdom, and that's what James is tackling head on, true to form.

So in the text that we have before us today, James by the Holy Spirit is going to provide us with what I'll referred to as to-do's. To-do's. These are what we can do as to-do's, if you will, when we're in those times.

The first one, verse 5. Ask God for wisdom. Is that a firm grasp of the obvious, right?

Actually, there's more to this than what we think, specifically that of the prerequisite of our acknowledging that we lack wisdom in the first place.

Now stay with me on this, because when is it that we ask God for wisdom? When we need it. When do we need it? When we know we don't have it.

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When do we know that we don't have it? When we understand that we lack it.

When do we understand that we lack it? I'm taking you on the scenic route. We'll get there. Stay with me.

Isn't it during those difficult trials in our lives that sort of uncover those areas that we are really lacking in, as we talked about last week?

Isn't it when we don't know that we ask God for wisdom? I mean, let me flip it around in the other direction because it goes both ways.

Hey, when things are going good, are you asking God for wisdom?

No, you got this. I got this.

I know you don't do this. I'll speak for myself. You're more Spiritual than I am, but when things are going good, I just picture God looking down on me going, Okay, he'll be back.

Just wait. Apparently, he's got this, so just let him go ahead and he'll realize soon enough, sooner rather than later that he lacks the wisdom that I have. If he would but ask, and that's the keyword, 'ask'.

Why is that so important? I mean, you would think that again, that would be a firm grasp of the obvious. Oh, how I wish it were. As we're going to see later on, James again, just pulling no punches, says you have not. Do you want to know why you don't have what you're wanting?

This is deeply profound, but the reason you don't have it is because you never asked.

Wait what? You mean all I had to do was ask?

Yeah, but you didn't ask.

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So how am I going to get you to ask?

Well, here comes this trial. You find yourself at the end of yourself going, God, I don't know what to do!

Again, I'll speak for myself. I just picture the angels given charge concerning me going, What is up with this dude? It's about time. I mean, here we are, we can't do anything as long as you're trying to do everything.

So we're going to wait for you to come to the end of yourself and throw up your hands and say, God, I need wisdom! Boom! Here you go. Here you go.

Wait, shhh. Did he just ask Me for wisdom?

Yeah.

We'll get down there and give him wisdom. I told him that if he would but ask, I'll give him wisdom and I'm not going to hold back. I'm actually going to give it to him very generously. And not only am I going to give him wisdom that he's asked for generously, I'm not going to in any way package it with guilt.

What do you mean?

In other words, when I ask God for wisdom, never imagine God in heaven going, [slapping hand down] Again!

I'm sorry; is this a bad time?

I'm not going to find fault, I'm going to give it to you generously without finding any fault, without casting any blame, without making you feel bad for asking Me. So just ask and I'll give it to you. It's there for the asking.

And here's the thing: God wants to give us wisdom more than we ourselves, even want God to give us wisdom because when it comes to the will of God, God wants us in His will more than we ourselves want to be in His will.

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I mean, that's just who He is, right? Again, maybe we need to flip that around, too.

Could you imagine God in heaven? Here's JD - I'm going to again use myself as the poster child; take one for the team. Quick, get down there! J.D. almost figured out My will. We need to change it up. Keep him guessing so he doesn't figure it out.

No! He is orchestrating the circumstances in my life, choreographing the steps of my life that is conducive to me being in the middle of His will for my life. That's who God is. He wants me in His will so He's going to set it up and direct me, and even in some cases redirect me so that I'm in His will. He wants me in His will.

One of the most often asked questions that I get as a pastor is: How do you know the will of God?

Don't hate me when I say this. Have you asked Him?

Well, what do you mean?

Just you're asking me- What's God's will? Ask Him! What's Your will, Lord? I need wisdom.

And God bound to His Word will give you the wisdom. How? Okay, let's talk about that. Four ways, I like to refer to them affectionately as the four legs on the table of God's will.

First and foremost, number 1: God's Word. I can assure you that if anything goes contrary to the Word of God, it is not the will of God because God will never direct you in anything or any way that is contrary to His Word.

And stop with this whole thing of, Well, I prayed about it, and it just feels so right. Oh, we're walking by feelings now. Oh, you've heard this one? How can something that feels so right be so wrong?

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Easy. It's called the flesh. The flesh loves it; Oh, this feels so good.

The Spirit's over here going, Noooo! The Spirit is grieved. The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak and see, there's everything in our sin nature that chafes at the idea of walking by faith; we want to walk by feelings.

You've heard that expression, 'Follow your heart'? Don't do that. Ask Jeremiah about that. **"The heart is deceitfully wicked."**

You know how we say of someone, Oh, they have such a good heart?

No, they don't. I mean, they might have a good heart, but their heart is deceitfully wicked, like your heart, and you can't even know it, how deceitfully wicked your heart is. You're beyond help. So have a nice afternoon now that I've - That's Jeremiah, he insulted you.

That's the true condition of our heart. Follow your heart? Follow your heart?

No, in fact, I would suggest that the opposite is true. If your heart is like, "Oh!" It's probably not the Lord, especially if it goes against His word.

What's the second way that God gives you wisdom? Well, once it's in line with His Word, God's Word comes with God's peace. There will just be that peace in your heart that this is good between me and the Holy Spirit and you bear witness with it. Let's again flip it around. If there is a check, something just doesn't quite - Don't. Don't.

Because when God gives you the peace of God from the God of peace, like the Apostle Paul says to the Philippians, and

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you've got the Word of God that is matching up with the peace of God, do not move until both are in place.

Which brings us to number 3: which is the providential circumstances. Now this is kind of a gnarly one because we're so prone to place most of the emphasis on the circumstances.

We like to say it and couched it in very Spiritual terms because it sounds so Spiritual. You know, when God closes one door He opens up another one.

Oh, that's so good. So cliché.

Wait, you're basing this decision solely on what it looks like has opened up? How about this? How about when God opens up two doors? What are you going to do then?

Oh, I never thought about that.

Or how about this one? This is even better. I've had this happen in my life so many times. Here I am, waiting for God to open up the door, you know, and God, you know, and I'm praying that I need wisdom and open up a door.

And God's going, No, I don't want to open up a door. What if I want to use a window this time?

Oh, okay then. I wasn't thinking like that.

Of course you weren't, because you're limiting Me and boxing Me in to your own understanding.

And that's Proverbs 3:5-6. We tend to lean on our own understanding as we see it, because not only do we not want to walk by faith, we want to walk by feelings, but we also want to walk by sight.

Because see, this is what the flesh says, Seeing is believing. You know that's the opposite, right? It's believing is seeing. Jesus said, If you will believe, you will see.

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That's another sermon for another time.

So now I've got God's Word, I've got God's peace, and I've got God's providence. He's arranged the circumstances, He's opened up the door, the window, the attic, the cellar, the whatever He decides to use.

And there's that peace of God; you've got the Word of God and the Spirit of God saying, This is the way, walk ye in it. All right, let's go.

One more thing: The fourth leg. It's the confirmation from God. Now this can happen in a myriad of ways, sometimes not the way that we think.

But God will have that brother, that sister in Christ, that He will send your way that will have a word fitly spoken and you know, it's the Lord because they'll say something even unbeknownst to them.

You're like, How did you know? Did somebody call you?

No, I just felt impressed to share that with you.

And you're like, Wow, that was the Lord.

And by the way, let me hasten to say, and this is very important, please hear this. You know, the ministry that takes place in this place is not pulpit to pew as it were, but it's between you and you.

You know, so much ministry takes place as a body of believers between believers. So it can be, you know, before the service, after the service, and somebody will just come up to you. I've had this happen so many times.

In fact, this one was key when it came to us making a very important decision, life changing decision to leave the mainland and come here to start what is now this amazing



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church, which I am so privileged to be the pastor of. I cannot even imagine.

In fact, whenever I go there, I think, if I did not heed God's call to come here, somebody else would have been the pastor of this church.

Anyway, that was a sanctified whatever you want to call it. So it was a very, I mean, what a huge life changing decision. Oh, my goodness. So I'm fasting, praying, asking, God, I need wisdom. I need wisdom.

Two years. The process was two years. And then the final confirmation came when a brother in Christ said something. They had no idea what they were saying and the Lord was like, There's your confirmation.

And the matts and container was on the water and we were on the plane and we were here.

Had all four: The word of God, the peace of God, the providence of God and the confirmation from God. And all four worked in tandem, in concert one with the other.

But it starts by asking for wisdom, you have to ask. Why can't God just - He knows I need it. Why can't He just give it to me?

Oh, because there's something about the process of asking God for it. And this kind of carries over into another principle that is oftentimes misunderstood when it comes to prayer. I mean, God already knows.

What's the point in praying? I mean, God's going to do what God's going to do.

Oh, how sad. How sad. Think of that in the context of your marriage relationship or your family relationship. Oh, so you already know what I need. I don't have to ask. You should just

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do it. I mean, you're going to do what you're going to do anyway.

There's no communication then. There's no interaction then. There's no - You'll forgive the use of the word, it's a very biblical concept. There's no intercourse. There's no intimacy.

There's no - It would be like a husband and a wife being married and never talking to each other or asking the other person for something.

See when you're on the receiving end of being asked, and this goes for your children too. I love it when my children ask me for something.

I'm like, Here. Here's more, more than what you asked for.

Hey Baba, can I?

Yeah, what do you need? I mean, and I'm a fallen father. I'm - Well, you were too quick to laugh at that. What's up with that? You are too, you know, you're fallen. Be nice to me today. We're all fallen, right?

And how much do we love to give to our children when they ask us? Jesus even used that as an example concerning the Holy Spirit. If your child comes up to you and asks you for bread, are you going to give them a stone?

They ask you for fish, are you going to give them a snake? How much more does your heavenly Father know how to give good gifts to those who ask. It's there for the asking.

Well, how Lord, how come they don't have that?

They never asked me for that.

Man, they really lack wisdom.

I know; they never asked for it.

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Well God, can't You just like by osmosis, you know, give them wisdom because they really need wisdom.

No. There's a transaction.

I'm sorry to use that word, but for lack of a better one, there's a transaction that takes place when you ask. And when it comes to prayer, I'm learning this the hard way and I have the scars to prove it, be very specific in your prayers.

If you're generic in your prayers, you know, God just save the world. How are you going to measure that?

First of all, we already know that's not compatible with scripture, because wide is the gate that leads to destruction and many go thereof. We know it's not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to salvation and repentance.

But you pray a general generic prayer like that, it's unmeasurable.

No, when you pray specific - Now be careful on this specific part. God, if this is Your will, let a bird hit my windshield at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

Okay, I'm not talking about that. Now if He does that, praise the Lord, that's pretty specific. I mean, that's what I like to call Red Sea clear. You know what I mean?

The Israelites, you got the Egyptians right behind them, the Red Sea in front of them. It's kind of like, I'm going to die here, or I'm going to die here. Fire or water. I think I'll go water.

And then God, just parts it. I think God wants us to go here. You think? [duh] The ground is dry. I think it's the will of God that we go through on dry ground.

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Wow, you're so perceptive. I digress. I think you get the point, right?

Be specific. Be specific.

You know, I look back over the years in my prayer life with the Lord, and I keep a very specific prayer journal and prayer list, actually. And I've gone back over that and I've been doing this for many years. It's kind of humorous sometimes to go back to my prayer list from the 1980s.

Yeah, I was five, so...

I've been keeping a prayer list since the 1980s. I go back and I'm looking at those prayers and I'm going, Oh! And it's not just the ones that He did answer, it's the ones He did not answer that I'm the most grateful for.

Oh, God, thank You so much! If You would have answered that prayer that way, it would have been catastrophic.

And God's like, I know that. That's why I didn't give it to you.

Here's what's really helped me, and I know I'm kind of getting off point here, but we'll get it back, Lord willing. This has really served me well over the years, and it is a truth about who God is and how God is.

God will always answer my prayers the same exact way I would answer my own prayers if I knew what He knew. In other words, you pray, you ask, God!

And you ask, and then He doesn't give it to you, and you're going, God, You said You would, you know, if I asked You, You would give it to me generously and not make me feel bad for it. What's up with this?

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Oh, I'm going to give it to you. I'm not going to give it to you until you need it, because if I give this to you now, you're not ready for it and it wouldn't be good.

And James again is going to talk to us by the Holy Spirit about every good and perfect gift coming from God the Father above. And there is no back-and-forth shifting of shadows, He doesn't change His mind.

No, if it's good, God is going to give it to you. But here's our problem: We ask God for wisdom, for direction. God's going to give it to you.

He's just not going to give it to you when you want Him to give it to you because we're an impatient bunch, right, especially in our day and age in the world we're living in?

We want what we want when we want it, you know, like a five-year-old. We don't want to wait. Come on, let's get this show on the road!

Yeah, but if you don't wait, you're going to rob yourself of what God is doing during the wait. And you don't want God to give it to you too early.

Oh, God's never late. But He's never early either. But you don't want Him to be early because if He gave it to you early, prematurely, and you're not ready for it, something that would have been, so good is not so good.

I like how one quipped, When the request is wrong, God says, No.

When the timing is wrong, God says, Slow.

When I'm wrong, God says, Grow.

But when the request is right and the timing is right and I am right, God says, Go.

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Oh, I like to go. Waiting for the green light, not the yellow light, because you know what we do with yellow lights, right? You know, yellow lights mean?

We need to talk about this, okay.

[ Laughter ]

Slow down and proceed with caution.

No! I can make it.

It reminds me of a true story, by the way. Oh, this is so funny. Just, can I just have a little bit of a laugh with you? Laughter is good for the, you know - In the Proverbs it's medicinal, laughter. It's like medicine for the bones and the soul.

And then they do all this research about, Researchers have found that laughter is very healthy for you. I'm like, Really? Get your own material. That's right here in - And by the way, how much money did you spend on that research?

Anyway, enough of my problems. True story. So you know, they have these cameras at these intersections. So if you run a red light, the camera takes a picture of your car and your license plate and you in it. And then you'll get a citation in the mail with the picture of you running the red light. You can't fight that.

Yeah, that was me. No, that was my evil twin, actually. You need to send it to them. I'll give you the address. S

o this happened in California. A guy gets a photo, ticket of him running a red light. And it's a picture of him running a red light and the fine is I think something like \$150 or whatever it was. So he takes a picture of \$150.

[ Laughter ]

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No, for real. That's something I would do. But yeah, it wasn't me. I'm an upstanding citizen, haven't had a speeding ticket in like over 30 years.

True story, by the way. So he sends in a picture of the money. That's pretty creative. You got to give it to him, right? So then he gets in the mail, in return, a picture of handcuffs. So he paid it. Anyway.

Yeah. I have no idea how that ties into the sermon this morning, but it's a good laugh. We should move on.

The second thing we can do when we don't know what to do is in verse 6, and it's believing, not doubting.

So here in verse 6, we actually have another one of these prerequisites. And the first prerequisite is that we have to ask, okay, I can check that off on the box.

But now here's the second prerequisite to check, and it's that of no doubt. You believe that what you've asked for God is going to give to you, and there can be no doubt.

When we ask, let me qualify this doubting, there should be no doubt in either God's ability to give us wisdom, or especially God's desire to give us wisdom. So there can be no doubt.

So it's like this: I ask God for wisdom. He's promised me that He will give me wisdom generously. All right. So He's going to do it.

Then here comes that voice. Oh, you've heard this voice, you know this voice well. It's the enemy.

I don't know. How do you know? Not so sure. I mean, after all, you haven't been to church in a while. You haven't read the Word in a while.

And by the way, when you prayed and asked for wisdom, when was the last time you prayed, buckaroo?

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And then all of a sudden, now that seed of doubt has been met with the supple soil in my mind that begins to entertain it, and then it starts to germinate and sprout, and then I'm full of doubt.

This is a big deal because James likens it to a wave of the sea. And we know a thing or two about the waves here in Hawaii, right? What are waves?

Well, they're back-and-forth. They're unsettled, agitated, frustrated, tumultuous, sometimes dangerous, and there's a restlessness.

Now you take that description, that analogy, that comparison of doubt being like that wave and you superimpose that template onto your own life, and what do you get? Well, you're back and forth.

I don't know. You know, I'm not sure. You're back and forth like that wave. You're agitated, frustrated like that wave. You're unsettled. There's no calm. There's no calm. It's roaring in the doubting, and he's using that picture to describe one who does not really believe.

Now this is not to be confused with unbelief. Remember that guy that says to Jesus, I believe, but help my unbelief? That's not doubt. That's different.

Doubt says this: I doubt God's going to do that for me. He might do that for them. I mean, He's going to do that for Pastor JD because, you know, of course, he's the pastor and, you know, so godly and Spiritual and - stop right there. Yeah, maybe they or them, but not me.

Okay, you're doubting. And as we're going to see with this last one in versus 7-8, that how costly the consequences of doubting are.



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Because James then goes on to say, That person who doubts should not expect to receive anything from the Lord and I'll tell you why. Because he's double-minded.

What does double-minded mean? Well again, unstable back-and-forth, torn in two, double-minded.

No, be single-minded. You've made up your mind. There is no doubt. And if there is no doubt, then you can expect to receive.

Now, this last one that I want to spend the remainder of our time on is - How do I say it? Well, I'll just be open and candid with you.

Versus 7 - 8 of James 1, would characterize many years in my Christian life. This was me, double-minded. And even when I believed, I'm like, I don't want to doubt.

Okay Lord, I'm going to believe, I'm going to ask and You said asking, You'll give generously and You're not going to withhold and You won't make me feel bad.

So I can know that You're going to give me wisdom when I ask You, but... And I've lived my life, my Christian life like that for so many years, sadly, to my own regret.

So what James is saying here is, Okay, you're so convinced and believe without any doubt that God is going to give you wisdom, you're like, Okay. What are you doing?

Well, I'm waiting for God to give me the wisdom that I asked for.

You are?

Yeah.

What if He doesn't?

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No, He will. I don't know when, but He will. I don't know the way, but He will. So I'm expecting it.

So I wake up in the morning and I'm like, Okay Lord, is today the day? That's how expecting I am of that which I know I will receive. It's a done deal. That's the kind of expectation that I can have when it comes to the wisdom of God.

But we still got a problem because doubt always comes back. Have you noticed that? I mean, what is it with doubt? It is so tenacious.

I mean, you think you've, you know, kind of dealt with it, Get out doubt! And then doubt leaves. An hour later here comes a knock on the door.

It's you again. I told you to leave.

No, we got to talk again. I don't know about this.

Okay, come in.

We fix dinner for doubt. Sit down, we're talking story, and doubt's just going off and just like, you know.

And then by the time you're done with dinner with doubt, you're so full of doubt, you know, and then doubt gets out.

He can leave now because he's already done his job. Yeah, I doubt it.

[ Laughter ]

I wake up in the morning; no, I doubt it. Well, Okay. You can't expect to receive anything from the Lord.

Conversely, this is when you really want to flip it around. So if the one who doubts shouldn't expect to receive anything, then wouldn't it stand to reason that the one who does not doubt is not double-minded should instead expect to receive everything?

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Yeah, that's what I'm talking about right there. Well that's what James is saying. He's just saying the same thing in a different way.

And sometimes the best way to understand something is to do the opposite, so you understand what happens if you don't, which is an encouragement and an exhortation to do what you need to do.

What do I need to do when I don't know what to do? You need to ask, believing, not doubting and then expecting to receive. You're so sure about it.

You know it's going to rain. Oh, it's sunny right now. No, but I have no doubt. You take your umbrella out. You expect it. And sure enough, you walk out that door - It's sunny; downpour. Told you.

That's what expectation means. Let me see if I can kind of wrap it up, bring it home and by way of an application to our lives in every arena of our lives.

Because again, this is I don't want to sound overly dramatic when I say this, but if a Christian can get this, man, it can be such a game-changer. Such a life-changer.

I mean, you're walking in belief, asking God in that constant conscious communion with God where you're always talking to God and He talks back too, you know.

Prayer's not a monologue. It's a dialog. And you ask God and God says, Okay. And He talks to you.

I love this illustration. I know it's very dorky, very outdated - but whatever. It's like a telephone. You know, I used to do this. Now you have to do this, I guess.

On the old telephones back in my day, you know, when you walked to school, no shoes both ways.

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Anyway, you had the phone and you have the microphone down here and you have the earpiece up here. Yeah, remember those days? Okay, well, that's prayer.

The microphone is when you talk to God and the earpiece is when God responds to you, that's the word of God.

So I'm talking to Him and He's talking to me. And there's that constant communication, which is so important in my relationship with the Lord.

I mean, I know I've shared this before, and I know you do the same thing so I'm not going to I'm not going to shrink back when I say this.

You know, when I'm in a car, especially when I'm in the car, I'm always talking to Lord. Lord, did you see that person that just cut me off?

[ Laughter ]

I know I'll pray for their salvation. You know, what's worse is when they've got a Christian something on the back of their car, you're like, Lord, you want me to call fire down from heaven and torch them?

And Jesus says, You know not what Spirit you are.

You know, come on, don't look at me like that.

Lord, can I please just kind of get over there in the passing lane and just give them a look?

You need to repent.

That's why I don't put anything Christian on my car you know, because my wife drives my car sometimes, that would be a terrible witness.

[ Laughter ]

Okay. All right.

**James 1:5-8**  
***What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do***  
**J.D. Farag**

It's that constantly communicating and asking. I mean, what have you got to lose?

You know, when Jesus said that if you will ask anything - Look up the word "anything" in the original language of the Greek New Testament.

You know what it means? Wait for it. Anything.

Anything?

Yeah, anything.

If you ask Me for anything and it brings glory to the Father, you got it.

Anything?

Yeah. If it's good and it's for God's glory, He's going to give it to you.

And I'm expecting it. That's not arrogance, that's holy boldness. That's a confidence, not self-confidence, but confidence in your God to do what your God said He would do when you don't know what to do.

And by the way, when you don't know what to do, that's the best place to be. Because when you don't know, you go to the One who does know.

And I would argue, and I'll just from my own experience say that there are so many times in my life where God just so long suffering and so patient waits for me to come to that place and say, God, I don't know what to do.

And I just picture God going, I do. You know the three steps? We haven't talked about the three steps for a while.

Step number 1: Know you can't.

Step number 2: Know He can.

Step number 3 Let Him. Let. Keyword, 'let'.

**James 1:5-8**  
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Paul writing to the Philippians, "**Let the peace of Christ rule.**"

That's in the original, the same word that we get our English word for umpire. Let the peace of God - Let. Let.

We just saw last week, "**Let perseverance finish its work.**"

You're not letting it finish the work, and that's why you have to keep retaking the test man. Remember in school when you didn't pass the test? You had to retake it.

Man, that was a memory I didn't want to - Yeah. Oh, horrible.

Anyway, I'm not going to do that. So God allows the test and the trial, by the way, same word in the original language, test, trial, test your faith, the trials.

So let, let perseverance finish. Get out of the way. Just get out of the way and let God finish the work that He's doing by allowing that trial in your life.

By the way, heretofore, you've noticed a few things, haven't you? You've noticed a few areas in your life that you're lacking.

Because see, he just got done saying by the Holy Spirit that you will if you let, let it, you will be mature and complete, lacking nothing, no lack.

So next time - Oh, you didn't have to say that did you? Yeah. Like we talked about last week, you're either coming out of a trial or about to go into a trial.

So God bless you. Have a wonderful afternoon, right?

But that's true, right? The trials of life. So the next time the trial hits, and those trials hit, you're better equipped.

**James 1:5-8**  
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You know, the last time I was in a trial, I let perseverance finish the work and I realize that I'm lacking in the area of wisdom.

So I ask God for wisdom believing, not doubting. And then I expected God to give me wisdom and He did. And here's what we do.

Maybe I should speak for myself, but God does it and you're like, He did it! God's like, Why are you so shocked? I told you I would. You know, we got answers, a huge prayer, and you're in disbelief?

You're like, He just - wow. [Stuttering in shock] And then we go to the other direction and start doubting.

No, wait a minute, God's like, You asked, I told you I would do it and I did it. And now you're doubting. What's the matter with you?

Again, I'll just speak for myself.

So now I'm better prepared for the next trial. See the last one, I really lacked wisdom but I asked and God gave me generously, I mean, over the top. Just I mean, it was - I only ordered enough wisdom for that trial and God's like, No, you need more because you lack this and you're going to need this. So I'm going to go ahead and give this to you generously.

How generously?

Well, bring in the truck and unload it, and we'll make room for it. That's how generously.

And so the next time the trial hits, you're like, All right.

A knock comes on the door. I've been expecting you because I don't lack the wisdom. I don't lack anything because God gave me everything that I asked Him for, and He gave it to me generously and He did exactly what He said He would do.

**James 1:5-8**  
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You might be in a trial today - My goodness. With everything that's happening in the world today.

Man! If you could just read my inbox. Actually, you don't want to read my inbox. Just heartbreaking, some of the things that are happening.

Kapono, why don't you go ahead and come on up and we'll try to bring this in for a landing. Got to find the runway first. I know Arabs shouldn't use airport illustrations or airplane illustrations but - Man, just so heartbreaking, you know?

Lord, I need to know what to do. This is - I've never been this way before. It's never been this bad before. Lord, I need wisdom. I need You. I need to know what to do. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help you too.

You know that the Holy Spirit indwelling us is our helper. You know what a helper is, right? They help. He's the helper. He is the helper. And the Holy Spirit also empowers, dunamas in the original language.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the empowering of the Holy Spirit is the only way we can live a holy life. Holy Spirit - holy life. Absent the Holy Spirit there's no way.

So ask, Lord I - just Holy Spirit help me. I need all the help I can get.

And again, the angels in heaven are going, JD needs all the help he can get.

Why don't you stand? I just, I want to encourage you if you're struggling today. I can testify to you God is faithful.

And one of the things I'm learning, and particularly when our daughter Noelle died, God just so clearly spoke into my life at that time when I really needed the comfort and the wisdom.



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And here's the wisdom He gave me from above. No matter how bad it is, it cannot change how good God is.

But this is bad.

Yeah, but what? I'm looking down going, yeah, this is bad, what are we going to do?

No, You're God, You're good. No matter how bad it is, it cannot and will not have the final word in your life. God will.

And here's another thing lastly, I didn't say lastly yet, okay. God is able to take that which seems like, wow, this is so bad - It's like God's saying, Yeah, but I can take the bad and I can make it good because I work all things together for the good.

Yeah but this one? I don't know about this.

Oh, really? Are you doubting?

No, I'm not doubting. Did I say that?

[ Laughter ]

Watch Me now. Watch what I'm going to do.

Father in heaven, I thank You so much for again, just inspiring James as blunt as he is, Lord. Maybe it needs to be blunt like that.

Lord, I pray that none of us would be numbered among those of whom it could be said they didn't ask, and even the ones who did ask, they just doubted and they didn't get anything.

Lord, we want to be numbered among those of whom it can be said, They asked, they believed not doubting and they received exactly as You said we would.

Lord, please, for anyone here today, that is really in the middle of it and they know they lack the wisdom they need to

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get through it, I pray that today they would ask and receive what they ask for, according to Your promise. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.