

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: "Resources for Bad Times"

SCRIPTURE: James 1:1-8, NIV

¹ James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be ¹²perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

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

⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

⁸ *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

I. Key Words:

- Resources
- Wisdom
- Prayer
- Faith
- Doubting
- Double Minded
- Unstable

II. People, Places, & Times:

- James the Apostle
- Jewish Christians

III. Background:

James 1:5-8 instructs believers facing trials to ask God for wisdom. God promises to generously give wisdom to those who ask in faith without doubting, while warning against being "double-minded" like a wave tossed by the sea.

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis: 1. The Need:

- A. **Acknowledging Where You Are** (V. 5a) "If any of you lacks wisdom..."
- B. **The Context:** Just prior to this, James commands believers to count trials as "joy" because they lead to maturity (James 1:2-4).
- C. **The Application:** Wisdom isn't just head knowledge; it's the practical, day-to-day understanding of how to honor God in the middle of a hardship. Admitting that you "lack" it is a vital, humble first step

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: The Giver

- A. **A Generous and Grace-Filled God** (V. 5b)
"let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."
- B. **The Character of God:** God's giving isn't begrudging. The Greek word for "generously" implies giving wholeheartedly and without reservation. [1]
- C. **The Application:** "Without reproach" means God will not demean you, roll His eyes, or hold your past against you when you ask for His help. He invites you to approach Him confidently

3. Lesson Emphasis #3: .The Condition:

- A. **Praying in Faith** (V. 6-8)
"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea..."
- B. **The Double-Minded Man:** The doubt James warns against isn't a fleeting moment of uncertainty. It refers to being "double-minded"—trying to straddle the fence between trusting God's way and relying on worldly solutions.
- C. **The Application:** A person who is double-minded is spiritually unstable. Asking in faith means fully committing to obeying whatever wisdom God provides, rather than only seeking His advice hoping it aligns with your own agenda.

V. Make It Happen

1. Why does the Christian need wisdom?
2. How does an individual get wisdom?
3. What does it mean to be double minded?
4. What does praying in faith means?

VI. Follow the Spirit:

What will you do as a result of this lesson?
