

**James 1:5-8**  
"Single-minded"  
March 8, 2026

**James 1:5** "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."

"wisdom" Gr *sophia* "skill for living" It's "How to handle the trial that we are going through."

God gives us the wisdom when we ask Him for it.

Freely; Without scolding us. It's OK to say "I can't do this! HELP ME!"

**Exodus 36:1** The LORD miraculously equipped them to fulfil His will.

**James 1:6** "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."

"doubt" Gr *diakrino* "differentiate between two things; waver; hesitate; be at odds with oneself; misgivings" Acts 11:12.

Can't decide what to believe; IS GOD HERE, OR IS HE NOT?

IF you're not tempted to waiver, you are not in a trial.

**Jude 22** God is compassionate on those who are doubting. We must be, too. We keep our eyes on Jesus.

**James 1:7** "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." "double-minded" Gr *dipsychos* "unstable; unsettled; vacillating; unable to decide the truth." Can't decide between two choices.

Two choices in every trial:

A. There is no God and everything is random and meaningless  
Internal inconsistencies with this view:

1. What about the sun, moon, stars, planet; where did they come from?
2. How to explain why I'm bothered by things that seem wrong? Where did I get the notion of a good outcome vs a bad outcome, if the universe is random and meaningless?

B. There is a God, and He has revealed Himself to humanity, because He desires relationship with us.

**John 6:68** Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

Observations from **Genesis 16**

# 1 (The obvious) Polygamy is a no-go from the get-go.  
Adam. And. Eve.

# 2 Abram and Sarai were not taking God at His word; they hatched a plan that was not of faith. They followed the culture. God doesn't follow social customs.

# 3 Abram and Sarai's endurance had not been perfected yet. Human wisdom is always a shortcut to the faith way.

# 4 Abram had already been declared righteous (Genesis 15:6), but his public testimony had not been perfected yet. Spiritual growth takes time.

# 5 Hagar the slave-girl was a victim of her culture who was treated unfairly by everyone in her world.

-lowest rank in society

-no rights as an individual person

-passed back and forth like property

-What must she have thought about the God of Abram and Sarai?

# 6 The Creator of the universe noticed the unwed, pregnant girl wandering in the wilderness on her way back to Egypt.

"Angel of the LORD (Yahweh)" first mention; Jesus. God notices us in our trials. He cares about us.

# 7 Her deliverance came through complete submission to the Creator's will. He did not free her from her trial. He went back with her. "return" and "submit" (verse 9)

# 8 Our deliverance comes from complete submission to our Creator's will. Not "double-minded."

# 9 Verse 11, ". . .the Lord has heard your affliction." The Lord hears our affliction. Psalm 77:1

# 10 Verse 13 "You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees" Psalm 142:3 "When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, You knew my path. . ."

When you see Jesus, you know it. Our help is miraculous.

Isaiah 53:3 ". . . A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

# 11 Verse 14 The well was called "Well of the One Who Lives and Sees Me."

God sees us in our distress. He knows exactly what we are going through. And He is here to help us. He will never leave us nor forsake us.