

James: Faith at Work

"Wisdom: The Ticket to Joy During Trials"

James 1:5-8

Sunday, May 17th, 2026

~ Interesting Views on Wisdom...

William Shakespeare - "The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool."

Socrates - "The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing."

Lao Tau (a Chinese philosopher) once said that "Knowing others is what we call intelligence. Knowing yourself is true wisdom."

~ Right off the bat, James begins his letter with an attempt to encourage the Christians who were under persecution because of Jesus with a tried and true piece of encouragement. It's not just any statement...its Biblical Theology.

Two Noteworthy Observations Regarding Wisdom:

a) Request for Wisdom

In life, we need to remember to change our perspective on trials and ask for the very thing that will get us through the trial = wisdom

b) Wisdom for the Believing

As we learn to ask, we need to remember that the Bible gives us a confusional clause in this section of James' letter; the condition is that we are to "ask in faith" Not just any faith, but a faith that comes from God himself (Ephesians 2:8).

~ What is Wisdom? ~

- The dictionary offers us this = Wisdom is knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action.

Kent Hughes (author) describes wisdom as "*understanding for living.*"

- Biblical wisdom is understanding for living that _____
earthly wisdom.

I. Wisdom's _____

Wisdom from Wisdom Literature:

~ Proverbs 3:13 - "Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding."

~ Proverbs 16:16

~ Proverbs 19:8 - "He who gets wisdom loves himself."

"Wisdom is not some distant concept that you only attain as you get older.."

II. Wisdom _____

Wisdom from Wisdom Literature:

~ Proverbs 1:7 - the fear of the Lord is the beginning to wisdom

~ Psalm 111:10

> 2 Timothy 3:14-15 ... Paul tell his young protege Timothy that he was taught the sacred Scriptures from a young age. Because of that, he was able to grow in wisdom!

> It is the Word that brought wisdom - In John 1, we see that the Word is Christ himself! If this passage was not enough, note 1 Corinthians 1:30 - "*And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption...*"

III. Wisdom _____

~ The BIG Question: What do we do with wisdom once God gives it? Don't forget - God gives us wisdom graciously, but sometimes we don't use or apply that wisdom to our lives.

> A little later on in this letter, we see that James shines some light on how we live in (or apply) this wisdom.

** James 3:17 - "*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.*"