

# JAMES

## A THRIVE STUDY

### WEEK 3: FROM LACK TO ACT

**James 1: 5** *"5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."*

#### NOTES FROM FRANCIS CHAN:

#### NOTES FROM MARCUS:

##### In Week 2 we learned...

...We see that trials in our life expose our how stable we are in Christ.

...We see what our foundation is built upon.

**EXPOSITION FROM WEEK 2:** Joy is the evidence of a stable Christian.

**Vs 5** *"If any of you **lacks** wisdom..."*

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**EXPOSITION 1:** Lack of wisdom in trials delays the completion of God's work in you.

#### DEF. OF GODLY WISDOM FROM *Herber Lockyer*:

*"Wisdom is ability to judge correctly & to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding"*

#### DEF. OF GODLY WISDOM FROM *John Piper*:

*"Godly wisdom is hearing & doing God's Word."*

#### DEF. OF GODLY WISDOM FROM *Both Authors*:

*"Wisdom is ability to judge correctly & to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge & understanding that comes from hearing God's Word."*

**Q:** Is James 1:5 talking about general wisdom or a specific type of wisdom?

#### **A:** Wisdom in Trials

**EXPOSITION 2:** By using the word wisdom here, James indicates that **TRIALS ILLICIT A RESPONSE FROM BELIEVERS**. In other words, God allows trials to come upon us believers so that God will be glorified through our joyful response.

**John 17:3** *"3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."*

**1 Peter 4:12-14** *"12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice & **be glad when his glory is revealed**. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because **the Spirit of glory & of God rests upon you**."*

**Vs 5** *"...let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, & It will be given him."*

**EXPOSITION 3:** Our 1st response to trials should always be **prayer**.

**Philippians 4:6-7** *"6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

**Romans 12:12** *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."*

**2 Corinthians 1:3** *"3 Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies & God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction..."*

## **GOD'S RESPONSE TO PRAYING FOR WISDOM**

**When we pray for wisdom in trials...**

#1 GOD **APPROVES** (*without reproach*)

#2 GOD **ANSWERS** (*gives; & it will be given him*)

#3 GOD **AWARDS ABOVE & BEYOND** (*generously*)

**Psalm 25:1-5** *"1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. 3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame... 4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth & teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long..."*

## **HERES' THE POINT:**

Often, in trials we lack the wisdom necessary to respond in the way that will bring God the most glory. When we lack wisdom God desires to give us all that we need & then some. We only have to ask! May our prayerful response to trials show the world around us that we serve the One True God who can be trusted to deliver everything that we need in every circumstance. May God be glorified by our joy in trials!

## **GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS** (JAMES 1:5)

**QUESTION #1:** In the middle of trials, what hinders prayer from being our 1<sup>st</sup> response?

**QUESTION #2:** Has there ever been a time (for you OR someone that you know) that God revealed wisdom about your trial through prayer?

**QUESTION #3:** Have (you OR someone that you know of) ever acted upon the wisdom God gave you in a trial? How was God glorified through your obedience?

**QUESTION #4:** From verse 5, what truth will you take to live out in your everyday life?

## **NO GROUP STUDY THIS WEEK**

**HOMEWORK:** Look over verses 6-8 for next week!