



In Need? Need Wisdom!

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Introduction

James 1:1 – “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the **twelve tribes which are scattered abroad**, greeting.”

James was not just the half-brother of Jesus...he was the pastor at the church in Jerusalem.

Well, these Christian brothers and sister that had been “scattered abroad” were driven from their homes into surrounding regions, facing poverty, trial, and exile, prompting James to write to them for encouragement.

They were definitely experiencing the temptations, tests and trials that James spends so much time talking about in this letter.

NOTE: A lot of people will tell us that THESE are the only types of temptations, test and trials that really matter...**but that is NOT the case.**

There are so many different types of them...financial, physical, spiritual, emotional, psychological, etc.

They are all battles that the enemy throws at you.

NOW: James gives us the answer to facing these temptations, tests and trials...**it takes FAITH!**

If you will ever see yourself through those issues...it will take faith.

He gets into the point of what faith looks like—JOY, PATIENCE, ACTION, WORDS, etc. **That is what the book of James is all about.**

I BELIEVE that we miss one crucial point in this first chapter that is ESSENTIAL and I believe the KEY to walking by faith and breaking through in situation.

James 1:5-7

5 **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God**, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

So he goes from JOY to PATIENCE working...but then **brings up asking God for something.** Hmmmm

- * If you have sickness in your body...what is the first thing you ask for? Healing...most likely (not wrong).
- * If you are in a financial battle...what is the first thing you ask for? Money...most likely.
- * If you lack anything, the first thing you will ask for is what you lack.

LOTS OF TIMES in the middle of trials...we are looking for something (stuff)...or asking for stuff.

YES...James 4:2 says we have not because we ask not...so this isn't necessarily wrong...

But I want you to see this secret to getting the stuff.

The first thing we are told to ask for, in James, **is WISDOM!** Not stuff.

The thing you LACK the most is WISDOM and most often your STUFF comes through wisdom.

NOTICE: James 1:6,7...this faith is directly related to us asking for wisdom.

Proverbs 4:7 tells us WISDOM is the principle thing.

Proverbs is a book of wisdom (better than rubies, etc.)

“Wisdom” – more than knowledge, it is what to do, direction

EXAMPLE: We can have knowledge that being hit by a car hurts (How many know that? How many have ever been hit by a car? You have knowledge and walk in wisdom.)

If you are standing or walking in the middle of a busy road...you are not using wisdom, even though you may KNOW a fact.

WISDOM would be to stay out of the street!

A lot of people when in the middle of battles...can know what to do (Pastor preached that thing) , but that doesn't mean you have wisdom...just have knowledge.

James is telling us...when we are going through the battles...**our FIRST THING should be to ASK FOR WISDOM**, not just the stuff that we lack or need.

Matthew 6:8 (while talking about prayer) – “Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”

AGAIN: Doesn't mean we don't bring it up to him...but our focus should be wisdom!

Example 1

Just think about Solomon. He offered a thousand burnt offerings to God

(1 Kings 3:4)...God showed up to him and said “whatever you want...I will give it to you.”

NOTE: Look at what an offering that costs you can do for you.

Solomon could have asked for anything...or everything...

- * First time king...success and the people to love me.
- * Following the wealth of his father...extreme wealth.
- * Kings of that time would always want prestige and recognition from other kings.

But what did he ask for?

1 Kings 3:9 – wisdom to rule the people...he wanted to know what to do.

That answer pleased God...and God attached everything else that he could have and probably did want and need on top of that wisdom.

Everything else came with wisdom! He asked for the right thing.

Example 2

1 Kings 17:1-7

1 And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

NOTE: This is not just bad news for AHAB and the people of the land...it is bad news for Elijah too (in the flesh)...he was going get hungry and thirsty too.

So what does he do? **GETS WISDOM**

2 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

3 Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

4 And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; **and I have commanded** the ravens to feed thee there.

NOTE: He got his wisdom...If you ask, God will give it.

When He gives it...you must do it.

- 5 **So he went and did according unto the word** of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.
- 6 And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.
- 7 And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

When wisdom came...God provides.

Example 3

OFTEN once we have heard from God about things...that becomes our place to live forevermore and can't figure out why things change...we must keep looking for wisdom.
The brook dried up and the ravens stopped with the food.

MORE WISDOM comes!

1 Kings 17:8-16

- 8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,
- 9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.
- 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

God is going to provide...and would provide...Elijah just needed wisdom.

Vs. 9 – The widow!

Her situation was dire (10-12)...she is making plans to die. She is broke...broke people called her broke.

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? Vs. 9 – God gave her wisdom...commanded her to sustain the prophet.

YUP...told her to do something that would cost her, but it was in that thing that her answer would be.

- 11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.
- 12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.
- 13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

NOTICE...her details came through the man of God...so always listen.

- 14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.
- 15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, **and he, and her house, did eat many days.**
- 16 **And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD,** which he spake by Elijah.

The wisdom was the answer! Provision.

That one act provided what she needed AND more (son raised from dead later).

NOTICE: Elijah obeying the wisdom...was the answer to someone's need.

Your obedience to wisdom is someone else's answer.

Acts 20:35 it says that it is MORE BLESSED to GIVE than RECEIVE (said Jesus said it).

Why? YOU LACK: Wisdom tells you to do...you do and God provides a complete answer...not just the ONE THING (like the widow, she didn't just get another meal, she got as many as needed).

If God just gave you what you asked...it would be done...not more than enough.

God always views things in terms of more than enough.

Example 4

The final example we are going to look at in terms of prioritizing wisdom over the thing you lack is found in 2 Kings 4

2 Kings 4:1-7

1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and ***the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.***

THERE is her need. It is what she needs.

But she is asking for wisdom.

2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

Here is her wisdom!

3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.

6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, ***Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.***

She was about ready to lose everything! Everything! Severe!

It took faith ONCE she heard that wisdom to borrow SO MANY VESSELS...but she had to obey the wisdom.

AGAIN: It was IN HER WISDOM that her answer lied.

It was IN HER WISDOM that her MORE THAN ENOUGH came forth.

Conclusion

BELOVED: So many times we get side tracked in life by what we have need of...what we lack.

Honestly, that is where depression and dejection comes from...what we don't have.

We have asked and asked and asked and it doesn't seem like anything is happening or working.

The TRUTH is...you may be asking for the wrong thing...you've asked for the stuff, but not the wisdom of what will unlock the stuff.

PERHAPS there is something you've known you are suppose to do...but you have delayed because it may be your last cake or vial of oil...your provision very well may be on the other side of that wisdom.

PERHAPS you've not asked for wisdom...you have not because you ask not...go ahead and ask, He will give you what you need to do...provision could be lying on the other side of that obedience.