



## FAITH RELIES ON GOD'S WISDOM

2<sup>nd</sup> of the FAITH THAT SHOWS Series

James 1: 5-17

Faith can be that internal strength flowing from a strong belief in God. But

faith is not entirely inward; it manifests itself outwardly. In fact, faith is not just an abstract ideal but is manifested by words, actions and decisions.

Unless proven by deeds, our faith is dead.

Last week, we learned that **faith manifests joy when tested.**

But what if we cannot be joyful about our circumstances? Then, we need God's wisdom. Faith is anchored on the wisdom God generously provides. People fail to be joyful because they fail to ask God for wisdom on how to deal with their problems.

### FAITH RELIES ON THE WISDOM GOD GENEROUSLY PROVIDES

**Faith is not a leap in the darkness; it is moving forward with the light of God's wisdom**

In our darkness, we ask for light: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God"*

In our lack, we ask to the One who gives generously: *5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

**Faith is eliminating the doubt and finding stability as you seek God's wisdom**

Seeking wisdom from God is in itself a faith-growing process. This is because you must believe and eliminate doubts when you ask for wisdom otherwise you will not receive anything from the Lord

A person who believes

James' Diagnosis: *"6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do."*

-Expects to receive

-Single-minded/focused on God

Paul's Diagnosis: Hebrews 11:6 *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

A person who doubts

James' Diagnosis:

- Will not receive. Because of his doubts, he is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind

- Double-minded and unstable

Paul's Diagnosis:

- Without faith, it is impossible to please God

### Faith, guided by wisdom, will persevere under trial

- Wisdom allows believers to see them in a more blessed state than those who are rich in this world. *9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.*

- Wisdom helps believers look forward to God's rewards to those who stood the test. *12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.*

### Faith is having the wisdom to take full responsibility for our wrongs

*13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

*16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

Wisdom not to fault God for your temptation

- God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone

Wisdom to admit that we easily give in to temptation and

suffers great spiritual defeat

- Evil desires entice us to sin and drag us away
- Conceived evil desires gives birth to sin
- Sin grows fully
- Full-grown sin gives birth to death

Wisdom to distinguish deception from God's divine work

*16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

### FOR DISCUSSIONS:

1. How have you applied what you learned last week that "faith manifests joy when tested"?
2. Reflect: Faith is anchored on the wisdom God generously provides. People fail to be joyful because they fail to ask God for wisdom on how to deal with their problems.
3. Reflect: Faith is not a leap in the darkness; it is moving forward with the light of God's wisdom
4. Reflect: Faith is eliminating the doubt and finding stability as you seek God's wisdom
5. Reflect: Seeking wisdom from God is in itself a faith-growing process. This is because you must believe and eliminate doubts when you ask for wisdom otherwise you will not receive anything from the Lord
6. Reflect: Faith, guided by wisdom, will persevere under trial. Wisdom allows believers to see them in a more blessed state than those who are rich in this. Wisdom helps believers look forward to God's rewards to those who stood the test.
7. Reflect: Faith is having the wisdom to take full responsibility for our wrongs
8. Do you normally fault God when you are tempted? What should then be your attitude when you are tempted?
9. What action steps can you undertake in order to apply wisdom to your faith?