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NOTES

Insights and Life Lessons
From Jacob:
Study on the Book of James
Pt. 2 (James 1:5-8)

Scripture Memorization: Proverbs 9:10-11 “ _____

_____, _____
_____. For through wisdom
your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.”

Introduction: James began his letter with an incredible greeting that let us know right from the beginning that he understood who he was, and what he was called to do. He introduces himself, not from the perspective as Jesus’ half-brother, but as a slave to the Lord Jesus Christ. The opening of his letter challenged us to have the right perspective of the trials we will endure in our lives. When we greet the afflictions, persecutions and trials of any kind with the spirit of joy, the kind of faith we possess is revealed. It is the kind of faith that will produce patience; the frame of mind which endures. Trials that were received with faith will produce the patience needed to finish the race. Trials that are received with grumbling and unbelief will produce bitterness and discouragement. As believers, we decide whether we will let patience have its perfect work, or will we allow the enemy to steal our faith, cause us to doubt or to lose heart. Deciding to allow God’s

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perspective on trials will bring much needed wisdom in our lives so that in the end we will perfect, complete and lacking nothing.

1. James 1:5-8 How to receive wisdom.

a. Trials are so important in the gaining of wisdom.

i. Eliminate by faith.

ii. Persevere in by faith.

iii. Knowledge vs. wisdom.

1. Raw information, the ability to take things apart

2. How to use the information, the ability to put things together. -Henry.

b. All we have to do is ask God, and believe what He says when He promises He will give it liberally and without judging us for asking.

i. This is why faith is so important to our Christian walk.

ii. This is why the enemy fights us so hard to not pray, not seek God, and not to believe that we have a source of wisdom that WILL help us.

iii. “He gives according to his excellent greatness; as Alexander the Great gave a poor man a city; and when he modestly refused it as too great for him, Alexander answered, *Non quaero quid te accipere deceat, sed quid me dare*, The business is not what thou are fit to receive, but what it becometh me to give.” (Trapp)

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- iv. We must change our perception of who God is in our lives and what He truly wants to do as opposed to what we've been taught that He doesn't want to do.

- v. Our posture should be one of humility. We ask, not demand, think that we have earned, or have some sort of entitlement. Instead think of a homeless person on the street, and know that God will give us far more because we are His children.

- c. BUT...The ask must be in faith. We come in faith and ask in faith.
 - i. "You know, dear friends, that there is a way of praying in which you ask for nothing, *and get it.*" (Spurgeon)

 - ii. When we allow doubt and lack of faith creep into our prayers then we will not receive anything from Him. The description of the doubter:
 1. Wave of the sea- restless.

 2. Wave of the sea-unstable.

 3. Wave of the sea-driven by the winds.

 4. Wave of the sea- capable of great destruction.

- d. When we ask God, but with doubt in our hearts then we are showing ourselves to be double-minded.
 - i. Two contradicting guides of faith and doubt cause us to not be able to go in one specific direction.

 - ii. We all experience doubt on occasions, but when that desire becomes action, we will experience instability.

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1. “The man who said to Jesus, ‘*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!*’ (Mark 9:24) was not double-minded. He wanted to believe, and declared his belief. His faith was weak, but it wasn’t tinged with a double-minded doubt.”-Henry

2. We are mixing our human perspective with God’s perspective on our situation.
 - a. James was writing to the Jerusalem church who were treated horribly because of their religion and because they were poor.

 - b. James was urging them to seek God’s wisdom on every matter and apply his insight to their problems of feeling pressure from society’s influences, trials and persecution.

 - c. The people of James’ time had a list of reasons, according to their world perspectives, why they couldn’t trust God’s word and do things their way instead.

 - d. James wanted them to know that the word of God has a far better perspective and that they can’t try to find their own way and try to go God’s way as well.

3. One of the strongest qualities of a double-minded person is disloyalty. It’s inevitable because they are pursuing multiple contrary ideas.

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4. Many have experienced varying traumas of untrustworthiness with the people we are surrounded by, which has caused unsteadiness.
 5. We must remember that we are humans, and will fall short without the power of Jesus helping us to have the faith that all things will work for our good.
- e. “Do you believe that God can give you wisdom, and that he will do so if you ask him? Then, go at once to him, and say, ‘Lord, this is what I need.’ Specify your wants, state your exact condition, lay the whole case before God with as much orderliness as if you were telling your story to an intelligent friend who was willing to hear it, and prepared to help you; and then say, ‘Lord, this is specifically what I think I want; and I ask this of thee believing that thou canst give it to me.’” - Spurgeon