



Sunday, October 3, 2021

James: A Practical Faith that Works

“Am I Wise –or- Otherwise?”

Text: James 1:5-12

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Big Idea: God alone gives the biblical wisdom that helps believers put things together in this “fly-apart” world.

James defines the characteristics of a Biblically wise believer:

1) A biblically wise person knows **what** to ask.

(James 1:5a / 1 Kings 3:7-14 / Acts 16:25)

It is not God’s priority to make me **comfortable**, but to make me **complete**.

2) A Biblically wise person knows **whom** to ask.

(James 1:5 / Psalm 111:10)

Ask God for wisdom because He is **generous**.

Ask God for wisdom because He is **inclusive**.

Ask God for wisdom because He is **patient**.

3) A Biblically wise person knows **how** to ask.

(James 1:6-8 / Romans 10:9 / 1 John 5:13)

I must ask **believingly** and **single-mindedly**.

4) A Biblically wise person knows how to **prioritize his love for God**.

(James 1:9-12 / Romans 10:9 / 1 John 5:13)

It is a gospel truth that the **cross** always comes before the **crown**.

Study/Application Questions and Actions:

1) List some difference between someone who is knowledgeable and someone who is wise. Can those two exist together? How?

2) How could a believer avoid using his prayer time to merely ask God for advice when they should be asking God for wisdom?

3) Review the Solomon request in 1 Kings 3:7-14. What is the singular lesson of this account? Why are believers today even better off asking for wisdom than Solomon was?

4) We should ask God for wisdom because He is generous, inclusive and patient. Which of the characteristics is most motivating to your faith in Him?

5) What could be a practical application in your life today of the closing thought, “the cross always comes before the crown?”