

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

GOD GIVES WISDOM TO UNDERSTAND

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

There are times in your life when you have difficulty understanding why God permits a difficulty, tribulation, trial, a problem to come into your life. For example, you have religiously followed all health guidelines, eaten nutritious balanced diets of organic foods, daily exercised and yet you ended up with a life-threatening disease. How can this be? Why you?

When you are in the middle of contending with a difficult life situation, it may indeed be difficult for you to see or believe how something good will come into your life as a result. This may not be true for other Christians, even the majority of Christians, but at the moment it is true for you. James addresses verse 5 to what you are experiencing in your life. “If any of you lacks wisdom. . .” e.g., understanding, the ability to comprehend the good that God intends for you to derive from your current problem.

For just this time in your life James encourages you to “ask God,” pray, and/or read His word in order that He will give you the understanding, wisdom, comprehension you lack at the moment. He encourages you to do this because God gives without reservation. He does not scold you for your uncertainty, doubt and questioning. Instead, He invites you, through Jesus’ exhortation, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:7-11)

No matter who you are or how much you currently doubt, God intends to faithfully keep His promises He has given you. God provides you with the means through which He will meet your need, namely His Word. And, God sends His

Spirit to instruct, enlighten, make you wise to know and believe you are not on your own. You, Jesus bought with the cost of His shed blood to redeem and restore you as God's son or daughter. "Since He is for you, nothing and no one can be against you. . ." (Romans 8:31-39)

Prayer: Lord, I must admit there have been (or are currently) times in my life when I have had great difficulty understanding and accepting the trials, tribulations and difficulties you have permitted me to experience. Out of the generosity of Your love for me, provide me with Your gifts to remove my doubts and trust you to provide all I need to support my body, mind, soul and spirit. In Your holy name, dear Jesus. Amen.

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!
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