

The Book of James
James 1:1-8
T.A.G. Resource

You've likely heard Andrew close his prayers by saying, "Yahweh, we love You, yet please don't merely take our word for it, but see it in our actions." While we are not saved *by* our works, we are saved *for* good works. Genuine love of God and faith in Him will be expressed outwardly. We need wisdom. Yahweh gives wisdom. While short in length—only 108 verses, the book of James provides much instruction concerning divine wisdom. Let us show our faith in and love of Yahweh by our actions.

Read James 1:1-8 and 1 Kings 3:6-14

Topic: James, the half-brother of Jesus, once was not a believer in Jesus, but after an encounter with the risen Jesus, James believed. He became an elder in the church at Jerusalem. He wrote to Jewish Christians, admonishing them to demonstrate wisdom in the midst of trying circumstances.

-What is wisdom? How is it more than merely knowledge? What do you think of Andrew's definition of wisdom? "Wisdom is the ability to discern good from evil and to apply knowledge, skill, and experience in order to live in right relationship with God and with others."

-Is faith tested through trials or produced through trials? How does faith come about? (read Romans 10:17)

-Joy is "an unnatural reaction of deep, steady, and unadulterated thankful trust in Yahweh." Does having joy in the midst of trials mean we must always be happy?

-Read 1 Peter 1:5-7 and Romans 5:3-5. What is perseverance?

Association: Trials of various kinds are all around us.

-When hit with unexpected difficulty what is your immediate reflex? How does viewing trials as a deliberate choice of perspective change how you respond to daily pressures?

-Looking back at a past trial, how did God use that difficulty to mature your character or reveal dynamic blind spots?

-In what current situation are you relying on human intuition or cultural advice instead of seeking God's wisdom?

-Knowing that God gives wisdom freely without looking down on us for lacking it, what holds you back from bringing your honest confusion or lack of clarity to Him in prayer?

-What are the subtle “second anchors” or backup plans you tend to trust in alongside God (financial security, human approval, personal control)?

-In what specific area of your life do you feel like you are being “driven and tossed” by anxiety or changing circumstances? What would wholehearted, undivided trust look like in that area this week?

Guidance: Mature, complete Christlikeness is our purpose, but we will never be perfect this side of eternity. Until then, it is all about “progress not perfection.”

-What specific ways have you sought out Yahweh’s wisdom and received it?

-What specific trials are you facing now?

-Pray with and for each other concerning these trials and earnestly seek God’s wisdom.

Additional Readings

Verse 1: Acts 15:13; Romans 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1

Verses 2-4: 1 Peter 1:6–7; Romans 5:3-5; Matthew 5:11–12

Verse 5: Proverbs 2:6 Matthew 7:7–11; Proverbs 1-3

Verses 6-8: Matthew 14:30–31; Mark 11:23–24