

The Book of James – The Only NT Book

James 1:5-8 TOPICAL DRILL DOWN regarding Wisdom

Just for fun: Webster's 3rd International Unabridged Dictionary definition of wisdom starts with :

"1. The effectual mediating principle or personification of God's will in the creation of the world – Logos"

John 1:1-5 – Wisdom founded in God; reflected throughout Proverbs (21:30)

Proverbs 8:1-11 – Available, valuable (Me, James 1:5 and I Kings 3)

Proverbs 9:10

I. James 1:5 The single source for wisdom is God, but how do we get that wisdom?

- 1) Prayer > Holy Spirit answering guidance – Momentary
 - a. Ask in prayer – James 1:5, also Matthew 21:18-22 (again tied to faith)
 - b. Direct guidance of the Holy Spirit – John 14:16-17, 16:13-14

- 2) Logos - Study God's Word – Lasting
 - a. Study continuously – Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalms 119:105
 - b. Illuminated by the Holy Spirit – I Corinthians 2:12-14 (I John 2:27)
 - c. Abiding in Christ/Walking in the Spirit John 15:4+, Galatians 5:16+

- 3) Doers – Establishing Wisdom by practice – Ingrained
 - a. Look ahead – James 1:22-25 – compare what you've been told to what you've done!
 - b. What dwelling in wisdom looks like – Ezra 7:6, 9b, 10
 - i. Study – Do – Teach
 - ii. Accomplishments (What God can do with us!)
 1. Called the father of Judaism
 2. Wrote 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, some Psalms
 3. Translated Pentateuch (at least) into Aramaic
 4. "Great contribution to OT canon"
 5. Credited with origination of synagogue/meetings > modern weekly church meetings

II. James 1:6-8 But what is this about having enough faith? (Matthew 21:18-22)

Hebrews 11:1+; The “Hall of Fame” of Faith

Trusting God – based on a personal relationship

- a. Faith was an enabler or restriction on the miracles Christ preformed
- b. Jesus would ask for faith before performing a miracle, or comment on a person’s faith in conjunction with a miracle
- c. Proverbs 3:5-6 not our wisdom, trust God, He leads
- d. Matthew 21:18-22 make sense now? Is it something you’re able to trust God to do?
- e. Does James 1:6-8 make sense now?
 - a. Relationship
 - b. Trusting God to provide
 - c. Or else, we are the limiting factor – not God

Going to God for Wisdom entails having a relationship with God in which we have faith, or trust, in Him. The we ask without wavering – which means we’re ready to pray to God about it, ready to study His Word, ready to walk in His guidance.