



Epistle of James

James 1:5-8 - God's Provision in Testing of Your Faith Part 2

- Review of *God's Provision in Testing of Your Faith Part 1*:
 - » *James 1:5,6 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.*
 - Whose *wisdom* is this and how do we obtain this *wisdom*?
 - » *Acts 7:22 - "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deed.*
 - » *Isaiah 29:14 - "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."*
 - » *1 Cor 2:4,5 - And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*
 - » *1 Cor 1:30 - But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—*
 - » *1 Cor 2:13 - These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*
 - » *Eph 1:17 - that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*
 - » *Col 1:9 - For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*



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» James 3:17 - *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*

- Thus, this **wisdom** is not of the world but comes from **the power of God** working through the Holy Spirit to have us know and increasingly be transformed/conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ!

- ***James 1:7,8 - For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.***

– *For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*

- The verbs *let* and *suppose* are imperative – why, don't we all have expectations?
 - » James 1:6 - ***But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.***
- To what does *anything* relate?
 - » James 1:5 - ***If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.***



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- *a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*
 - *double-minded (dipsychos or double-souled) - wavering, uncertain, doubting*
 - Of interest, *man* here is *anēr* indicating male sex not *anthrōpos* which is a more general term to indicate a person of either sex. And, in James *anēr* is used again (*James 1:12, 1:23, 2:2, 3:2*) – what should we make of this?
 - Used only twice, both in *James*; here and *James 4:8* - the antidote!
 - » *James 4:8 - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*
 - This does not imply that this man is necessarily a hypocrite, but inconsistent and unpredictable in intent.
 - How do we know if/when we are *double-minded*?
 - Is Peter an example?
 - » *Matt 14:31 - And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”*
 - *Why unstable in all his ways?*
 - Used only once here but the concept is not new.
 - » *1 Kings 18:21 - And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.*



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- » *Isaiah 29:13 - Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths. And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,*
- » *Hosea 10:2 - Their heart is divided; Now they are held guilty. He will break down their altars; He will ruin their sacred pillars.*
- » *Matt 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*
- » *Rev 3:15 - "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. "So then, because you are lukewarm, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*
- **Constable – ‘In summary, God will help us take His view of trials, which James explained in verses 3 and 4, if we ask Him to do so in prayer. We can be joyful while experiencing trials that constitute temptations to depart from God's will. We can do so because we know that if we remain faithful to God, He will use these trials to produce what is glorifying for Him and what is good for us.’**
 - But although *He gives liberally, we pray doubtfully!*
 - Manton – ‘Is doubtfulness of the mind then the cause of uncertainties in our lives and conversations?’
 - » *2 Peter 3:17 - You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;*



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- Although these verses are from the OT, they reflect a principle of God and are applicable to the *double-minded man*.
 - » *Prov 3:5,6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*

