

# James 1:5-8

## God's Provision in Testing Your Faith, Part 1

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## James 1:5-8 (NASB)

*5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

# Trials and Testing

## Greek (peirasmos [trials])

*a testing with a view toward failure; a solicitation to sin*

- *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various **trials**,*

## Greek (dokimion [testing])

*a testing with a view toward approval; an opportunity to glorify God*

## Greek (hypomonē [endurance])

*an abiding under*

- *knowing that the **testing** of your faith produces **endurance**.*

5a *But if any of you lacks wisdom,*

Greek (*sophia* [wisdom])

*insight imparted from God in respect to the divine counsels; as conjoined with purity of heart and life*

- *But* = *moreover*; continuing the thought
- James uses the word *sophia* again in 3:13, 15, 17
  - Contrasts earthly wisdom with Godly wisdom
  - See also 1 Corinthians 2
- What is the “wisdom” James speaks of here?
  - Is this the same wisdom described in the Old Testament?
- How does this relate to maturity discussed in verse?
  - Is this the *teleos* of our trials and tribulations?

5b let him *ask* of God, who gives to all *generously* and without *reproach*,

- Ask: *to ask, beg, call for, crave, desire, require*
  - Used 5 times in the book – 1:5,6; 4:2,3 (2x)
- Wuest: *let him keep on presenting his request*
- What is the prerequisite for this request?
  - Reminder – to whom is James speaking?
  - Who is the “all”?
- What is the character of the petitionee?
  - Generously: *sincere, uncompounded, clear, without duplicity, bountifully, liberally*
  - Reproach: *to defame or disparage; to rail at*
- What should we not ask of God?

*5c and it **will be given** to him. 6a But he must ask in **faith** without any doubting,*

- What is the prerequisite of the giving?
  - Will God give only to those who ask?
- What is it that is given?
- What is the guarantee of this promise?
  - How can we know it will be done?

Greek (pistis [faith])

*conviction of the truth of anything, belief*

- Specific word is used 16 times in the book

*5c and it will be given to him. 6a But he must ask in **faith** without any **doubting**,*

- What is the object of this faith?
  - Is it faith in who God is?
  - Is it faith in what God has revealed?
  - Is it faith that God can and will accomplish what He has promised?

### Greek (diakrinō [doubting])

*to be at variance, or strife, with one's self; hesitate; waver*

- How does this “doubt” contrast with the “faith”?
  - What happens in the absence of faith?
  - See Hebrews 11:6
- Does God measure if our faith is “100%”?
  - Is this all or nothing?

*6b for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.*

- What could be the cause of the vacillation?
- What are some events that could move us from a position of faith?
  - What is our “default” position?
- How does this relate to testing and trials?
  - What is it that is being “tried” and “tested”?
- What are some ways that the natural man describes the difficulties of life?
  - “What is the purpose of all this?”