

## Wisdom for Tough Times James 1:5-11

Pastor Art Hunt

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*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup>But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. <sup>9</sup>Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup>and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup>For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.* James 1:5-11 (English Standard Version)

**The Big Picture Truth:** God gives wisdom to fully devoted followers who ask for it.

**Instruction #1: IF YOU NEED WISDOM DURING TOUGH TIMES, ASK GOD FOR IT!**

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

Wisdom = using God's truth to understand life and guide our conduct

*I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.* Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

*Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.*  
Proverbs 19:20 (New International Version)

**Instruction #2: WHEN YOU ASK FOR WISDOM, CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR HEART.**

*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. James 1:6-8 (ESV)*

*. . . purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.  
James 4:8b (New Living Translation)*

**Instruction #3: LEARN FROM THE EXAMPLES OF THE RICH AND POOR.**

*Believers who are poor should take pride that God has made them spiritually rich. <sup>10</sup>Those who are rich should take pride that God has shown them that they are spiritually poor. The rich will die like a wild flower in the grass. <sup>11</sup>The sun rises with burning heat and dries up the plants. The flower falls off, and its beauty is gone. In the same way the rich will die while they are still taking care of business. James 1:9-11 (New Century Version)*

To the poor Christian—who might be tempted to feel insignificant and powerless—James says, “Remember your true spiritual identity!”

To the rich—who might be tempted to think too much of himself—James says, “Take pride not in your money or position, but in your humble status as a Christian, knowing that you will be despised and rejected by the world!”