

*Pure Religion*  
The Way of Wisdom – James 1:5-8  
January 21, 2018

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**

## I. GOD - THE GENEROUS GIVER

- James assumes that we all lack wisdom at times. He wants us to know that God gives wisdom, and other good things, without grumbling (Matt. 6:8; 7:7-11; John 14:13).
- Just as there are ways to pray, there are also ways not to pray (Matt. 6:9; Eph. 6:18; Jude 1:20).

## II. THE PRAYER OF FAITH

- Faithful prayers are (2 Kgs 19:15-19; Neh. 4:1-11; Isa. 38:2-3, 10-20; 66:1-2; Phil. 1:9; James 5:13-15):
  1. Worshipful
  2. Humble
  3. Penitential
  4. Direct
  5. Simple
  6. Hopeful
  7. Faithful (to God as he has revealed himself)
  8. Followed by praise

## III. DOUBLE-MINDED & UNSTABLE

- Without trying to sound too obvious, this is not the outlook God expects of us in prayer, or in life (Ex. 14:15; John 11:26; 14:1; Phil. 1:6).
- God joyfully gives wisdom. He also gives faith. Ask him for it! (Luke 17:5; Rom. 12:3; 2 Cor. 10:15; Phil. 1:29).

**KNOW:** God is a generous giver. However, we have been called to be men and women of faith. God calls us to seek him wisely (with the wisdom he offers us freely), and to do so boldly and with confidence.

**DO:** Strengthen your faith, and grow wise in the process.

### Recommended Reading:

*Praying the Bible*, by Donald Whitney (LifePoint Library #248.32 WHI)  
*The Valley of Vision - A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions*

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read James 1:5-8

1. What are some assumptions James makes about people in general in this passage?
2. James's advice is fairly simple. What do you think about it?
3. What does it mean to ask something of God "in faith"?
4. Jesus said if we ask anything in his name we will have it. James says we should expect nothing unless we ask in faith. Are they being contrary in their statements?
5. What does James say about the person who doubts?
6. Why is doubt so hard to overcome? What steps will you take this week to overcome your doubts?