

James 1

I have entitled today's message, **"Hard Times" Part 3**

James 1:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

James 1:1-8

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Let us pray

You may be seated.

### **"Hard Times"**

When we are under adversity, temptations, trials

This is the context of verse 5— We are under stress, suffering under hardship, under pressure, and we need help.

We have fallen into a difficult situation.

Look at what the Bible says we should do:

**Vs. 5**

If any of you lack wisdom (skillful in living), let him ask (beg, call - we initiate) of God, that giveth to all men liberally (bountifully, abundantly, lavishly - God bestows liberally), and upbraideth not (God will not rebuke us or chide us for asking for wisdom); and it shall be given him.

If we need wisdom, can we get it?

God says I can give you the wisdom that will help you.  
I can give you wisdom that will lead to victory,  
I can help you overcome,  
I can strengthen you,  
I can help you to stand, withstand and remain standing.

Assistance is readily available for the various trials of life on how to bear them and what we shall do in them.

We are in danger of going the wrong way especially under pressure, this why God uses the word temptations.

We become vulnerable and we look answers.

We choose the quickest way for relief.

People will go to foreign countries, purchase pills, become frantic in trying to wiggle out of the dark holes of life.

We need heavenly guidance. We need wisdom from Above.

We should know wisdom when we hear it.

**Wisdom is described for us in James 3:17:**

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure (clean, holy),

then peaceable (pacifies, not going to make things worse or stir things up more but cause peace within),  
 gentle (appropriate, its perfect, not harsh but soft),  
 and easy to be intreated (easy to be swallowed, easy to be compliant, reasonable-commons sense),  
 full of mercy (compassion and sympathy)  
 and good fruits (benefits),  
 without partiality, (impartial, shows no favoritism, any person can receive it and use it)  
 and without hypocrisy (sincere, genuine - given from God and it is not deceptive, it is frank and forward).

If we don't know what to do? Where to turn?

God says, Ask me, and I will give you wisdom in abundance.

Cry out to God.

It is an easy method to obtain. It is not hard.

It's simple. Not complicated, just ask.

**James 4:2**

Yet ye have not, because Ye ask not.

God did not say sit down and think about it.

God did not say sit down and read a book.

God did not say sit down and get on the internet.

How do get what we need? Ask of God

Notice how many can get His wisdom? vs. 5 He will give to all men

**God will hear and God will answer. God is the giver.**

**In black and white God says, it shall be given him.**

Divine Wisdom.

**Prov. 3:15**

(Wisdom) She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto (wisdom) her.

**1 Kings 3:5-12**

In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

6

And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

7

And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

8

And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

10

And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

11

And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

12

Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

Solomon asked for wisdom and God gave it to him in abundance.

**The Bible says**

**Prov. 4:7a**

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom:

The Great deficiency in Christianity is wisdom.

The Bible says

**Prov. 4:5-6**

Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

6

Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Wisdom begins with the fear of God.

**The Bible says**

**Prov. 9:10a**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:

God did not tell us to ask for deliverance; to ask for the removal of the problem.

This is what most people are immediately asking for and continually asking for.

The early church was under persecution but notice they did not pray for deliverance but for boldness. **Acts 4:29**

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

God says, when you ask me for wisdom, your are not asking for suggestions or opinions,

God teaches us to ask me with the mindset that we will do, what He says.

I see two grave mistakes.

#1 The person who thinks he does not need to ask for help. Too prideful. Independent.

And #2 the person who asks but is not sure if he will implement God's wisdom.

Many people are seeking answers but then they will choose what they think is best.

They will put their human wisdom above God's wisdom. How foolish?

This does not work with God.

**Vs. 6**

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering (no doubting, no hesitation). For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed (agitated).

**God tells us how to ask.**

If we are going to ask, this is how we ask.

Ask in faith, Ask in confidence, ask in a spirit of submission to God's wisdom.

How can a person ask in faith who has no faith?

We have to be saved, this is for believers.

**John 9:31**

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

**Heb. 11:6**

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

With a full and certain persuasion that God is and God can and what God says, I will do:

This is how we come to God and ASK for Wisdom

**Matthew 7:24-27**

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Don't ask with a spirit of doubt.

God can do more than we ask!

**Eph. 3:20a**

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,

Unbelief will get no help.

Don't ask for God's wisdom and then have Second thoughts.

This kind of person is like a what? vs. 6 A wave.

That person resembles a wave driven and tossed by circumstances.

Rising in hope and sinking in despair.

Driven from without - by the wind

Tossed from within

Like a wave - not fixed or settled in purpose, plan or effort.

Fickle, restless, impatient, unstable and unsettled.

He that wavereth is undecided.

Wavering between belief and unbelief. Internal doubt.

**Acts 10:20**

God's Spirit said to Peter, Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

Don't question, just do.

**Romans 4:20**

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

Waves are at the mercy of every wind.

They can go in every way and direction. Hither and thither.

This is the same word "tossed to and Fro". **Eph. 4:14**

People come to God with unsettled convictions and can turn upon every new feeling that may spring up.

God help me, God give me counsel.

Oh, I don't want to do that. I don't like that advice, wisdom, I will not go that route. I don't know if I should do that or not.

Do we want help from God or not?

Don't waver, Don't second guess, Don't stagger like a drunk man.

Don't be a hearer of the word but be a doer.

**James 1:22**

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.



If we ask God in a wavering way, do not expect to get the help needed.

**Vs. 7 cannot be any more plain**

For let not that man think (suppose) that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

A waverer gets nothing.

Don't expect anything.

God condemns prayers like this.

A doubting man dishonors God.

If there is no real trust in God and no reliance upon his Word, then don't expect anything from God.

He will not receive wisdom **or anything else.**

Think - don't even think it.

The doors are shut!

God wants 100 percenters!

Sometimes we ask everyone but God.

King Asa did this.

**II Chron. 16:12**

And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

How easy is it for us to run to our parents?

How easy is it for us to go to the mechanic? We do not even ask God to help with our car.

We just run to the doctor?

We go to our human fixers and helpers and then as a last resort, we turn to God.

God was at the bottom of a long list of things that I will try to get myself out of my predicament.

If we are not willing to give God trust, how can we expect God to give us His wisdom?

**vs. 8**

A double minded man is unstable in **all** his ways.

Double minded - alternating feelings, back and forth, undecided, no settled principles or convictions,

This person is influenced by feelings, by popular polls. He is inclined to a new opinion.

It is like he has 2 wills - one for God and one for every other thing.

This person is Floating between, fluctuating, never fixed, always changing, of continual uncertainty, ever shifting and moving, standing on one leg

His mind is up and down, up and down.

James 4:8 is the only other place we see this word.... double-minded

**James 4:8**

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

In the Old Testament,

**I Chron. 12:33**

Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: they were not of **double heart**.

This person is unstable in all his ways. He is at odds with himself.

Should we marry a person like this?

Should we go into business with a person like this?

NO stability.

In Hard times, go to GOD, Ask Him for wisdom and then do what God says.

**Let us stand for closing invitation**

God says to Ask Me.

No doubting.

And I will give...

Do we flop around like a fish out of water?

Do we halt between 2 opinions

Gospel