

Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church

Connect learn Grow

Wednesday Bible Study- Theme: Pathways to Spirituality

Review of the Book of James

Lesson # 3-January 27, 2021- Prepared by: Pastor Artee Williams

I. Subject: Provisions during trials- James 1: 5-8

II. Big Idea

In this section of chapter 1, James continues to communicate commands, spiritual principles, and spiritual disciplines that are pathways to spirituality.

James continues to encourage Christians to live out in practical ways what they profess to believe.

James assures Christians that even in the midst of trials, God provides adequate resources and one of the most important is godly wisdom.

III. Key commands, spiritual principles and spiritual disciplines

1. In verse 5 James sets forth a “ Command “, “ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God. “ The verb “ Ask “ points to the fact that believers are being commanded to “Continually”ask God for “Wisdom”. James teaches that the way to receive “ Wisdom” is through prayer.

2. Warren Wiersbe , noted Christian author stated; “ When we are going through God-ordained difficulties, what should we pray about ? James gives the answer: ask God for wisdom.”

3. Wisdom is more than knowledge it includes insight and understanding and conveys the idea of practical application. Without divine wisdom believers would not know how to view trials consistent with God’s will. James further defines wisdom as the right use of knowledge . Wisdom helps believers understand how to use trials for their good and God’s glory.

4. The character of God is revealed in verse 5. God gives wisdom to believers without “ Reservation” and in “Abundance”. In addition God will not “ Upbraid “ or “Reprimand “ believers for asking for wisdom.

5. In verse 6 James qualifies how believers are to ask for wisdom as follows:

* “ But let him ask in faith”- asking in faith is a “ Command “ . Believers must continually pray in faith for wisdom.

* “Nothing wavering” means to be in strife with oneself, to doubt, hesitate, or waver. To waver indicates a divided mind that is torn in two directions.

* The believer who prays without faith is a double-minded person and unstable in all his ways. James concludes that wisdom is therefore a gift from God in response to prayers mixed with faith.

6. Simile - James utilizes similes to clarify his teachings. A simile is a figure of speech that conveys an expressed or formal comparison ; a declaration that one thing resembles another. A comparison using terms like : as, like as, or even as. Similes increase understanding and comprehension and requires no explanation, it is the explanation.

7. James employs a simile in verse 6(like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed). James is painting a picture of a “Doubter” comparing that person to the surge of the sea, driven by the winds, in constant movement and seldom stable. In contrast James is teaching that strong faith brings stability and access to God’s wisdom. Verse 7 teaches that a “Doubter “ will not receive wisdom from God.

8. In James 1:5-8 believers are given a gracious offer. God freely and eagerly supplies wisdom- a right understanding of and commitment to righteous living- to those who come to God in a posture of active trust and a readiness to live out God’s will with a commitment to obedience without wavering.

IV. Conclusion - Four facts about God that encourages believers to ask for wisdom

1. God is a giving God.
2. God is generous.
3. God gives without finding fault.
4. God promises to answer those who come seeking wisdom in faith.

V. Application

1. What is the relationship between faith, prayer and wisdom ?
2. How many spiritual principles are described in James 1:5-8 ?
3. How many spiritual disciplines are described in James 1:5-8?