

Introduction: A brief review

¹ James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. ² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:1-4

The principle = “Don’t ask why, ask what.”

Three “what” questions survivors ask:

1. What can I control when my world falls apart?
2. What must I do to make it through today?
3. What hope do I have for tomorrow?

The answer = God’s sovereignty + goodness = He will take my worst circumstances and use them for my best if I will trust Him and not bail out of His spiritual maturity process.

I. **The problem** – sometimes we get “stuck” in our pain.

II. **The solution** – God promises help for those who are “stuck.”

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.

James 1:5-8

- God's offer = supernatural _____
- Our responsibility = to _____
- God's attitude when we come = _____

III. The one condition – We receive God’s wisdom only when we “ask in faith, without any doubting.”

To “ask in faith” means...

“Without any doubting” means...

Conclusion – Four things you must do to get unstuck

1. **Admit** you’re stuck.
2. **Admit** you can’t do it on your own.
3. **Ask God** for supernatural wisdom.
4. **Be willing** to do whatever God’s wisdom demands of you.

Discussion Questions:

1. According to Scripture, what is “wisdom?” How does this differ from our conventional thinking and use of the term?
2. What attitude permeates this passage with regard to God’s sympathy and understanding of our “getting stuck” in adversity?
3. Discuss the one condition necessary to receive this supernatural gift of wisdom to grow through the pain in our trials. (cross reference – John 7:17, Romans 12:1)
4. What step will you need to take to receive the wisdom God promises to give you in your present situation?