

- C. The double-minded minded person
- i. ...*should not expect to receive anything from the Lord* (7)
 - ii. ... *is unstable in all his ways* (NIV all they do) (8)

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Why do we need to go to God in prayer if we lack Wisdom? What kind of Wisdom is James speaking of? Explain.
- Can you find other places in the letter of James that speak about wisdom, or prayer (either in word or theme)? What might we learn by looking at all that James says about these subjects?
- Do you have a faith that is fully devoted to God? Or, are you still deciding if this “works”? What would it look like for it not to “work”?
- Do you worship God because you know Him, Who He is, and fear Him (i.e. love Him), or because He will make your life better? Does it matter? Explain.
- Does your faith declare, “The God I serve is able to deliver me from my suffering, but even if He does not, I will not serve other gods or put my trust in other ideologies or powers that promise me help.”
- The double-minded person is unstable, lit., *in all his ways*. Why is the double-minded person unstable in all his ways? Why do you think they are unable to discern truth from fiction?
- James brings up ones “ways” or “paths” again in 5:19-20 (*the error of his way*). How might this give hope to the person who does not yet have a fully devoted faith or stable ways?
- Comparing James 1:2-5 with Colossians 1:9-12, can you identify the triad of wisdom, maturity, and perseverance with joy? How does prayer play a part in each of these texts?

Faith that Turns Your World Right Side Up (Part 2)

Transformation or Bust

Jerry Cisar — May 15, 2016

Text: James 1:5-8

Introduction: Faith or Pragmatism

I. Trials Transformed (1:2-4)

- A. “Consider it pure joy, my brothers/fellow believers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”
 - i. ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.
 - ii. ...*so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*
- B. Perseverance is not just for others; it is for you!

II. Pursuing Transformation (1:5-8)

- A. ⁵ *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God... and it will be given to you.*
 - i. You must pray for Wisdom from God.

ii. **What is this “Wisdom”?**

a) Wisdom from God shows itself in a humble life demonstrated in good works, free from selfish ambition and envy. It is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. It reaps a harvest of righteousness. (James 3:13-18)

b) This Spiritual Wisdom is *nearly* synonymous with both the fear of the Lord (OT term) and faith.

James 1	Colossians 1:9-12
Joy and Endurance (2, 4)	Wisdom (9)
Maturity/Wholeness (4)	Maturity (10)
Wisdom (5)	Endurance with Joy (11-12)

iii. What is the promise here? Mark 11:24 with 10:35-38, 51-52.

B. ⁵...ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault....

i. “generously”

ii. He doesn't mock our need or inability when we come.

iii. When we come to God for this kind of Wisdom, with this request, he gives without discrimination and he gives without rebuking us for our weakness and need.

III. A Divided Heart

A. ⁶But when you ask, you must believe and **not doubt**...

The doubt is not a momentary fear that God may not answer us, but is divided loyalty—all in for God one moment, and then practicing Zen hoping I can reach fullest potential as I penetrate my true self.

B. ...because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

i. Like the waves of the sea which have no real direction and are constantly changing with every subtle shift of wind.

ii. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Daniel 3:15-18)

Some define doubt as “if he does not”. But that wasn't doubt. Doubt would have been, “well if YHWH can't deliver us, what are our other options?” Two-lives; two-sided loyalty; not being sold out.