



19. Pray for Wisdom

James 1:5 states, *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach [that is without rebuke], and it will be given to him.”* I’ve prayed for wisdom ... I’m sure you have too. But don’t think that knowledge and wisdom are the same. Spiritual wisdom is the ability to apply what you know of God and His Word to the complexes of life. Knowledge is different ... knowledge is just a piece of information. Wisdom is a spiritual ability that is developed. The beginning of James 1 teaches that trials and testing produce a spiritual endurance that makes us complete ... so that we are lacking nothing. Did you get that? Trials and testing produce an endurance that makes us complete ... lacking nothing.

But stop ... think about James 1:5's saying that if you lack wisdom, you should pray and God will give it to you. How does God give you the wisdom you are lacking ? According to James 1:2-4, He gives it to you through the spiritual endurance that trials and testing produce. But from the following verses, there is a condition you must meet for that prayer to be answered ... you must ask in faith without doubting.

So here's the plan from James 1. If you lack wisdom, pray for it in faith without any doubting. Then when trials and testing come in response to your prayers, consider it all joy knowing that it *will* produce the spiritual endurance that *will* develop wisdom in you. A prayer for wisdom doesn't give you some instant specific answer. It sets in motion a process that gives you the wisdom you need.