POWER HOUR

11/15/2026

Lesson Text:
James 1:1-11

Related Scriptures:
Romans 5:1-5; John 15:1-11; Mark 9:14-29; Isaiah 40:6-8; James 4:13-5:6

"ENDRING TRIALS IN WISDOM"

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. James 1:5 NLT

Time: between A.D. 40 and 48 **Place**: from Jerusalem

James 1:1-11 NLT

1 This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing
to the "twelve tribes"—Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings! 2 Dear
brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an
opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your
endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully
developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. 5 If you need
wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for
asking. 6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not
waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is
blown and tossed by the wind. 7 Such people should not expect to receive
anything from the Lord. 8 Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and
they are unstable in everything they do. 9 Believers who are poor have something
to boast about, for God has honored them. 10 And those who are rich should boast
that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. 11
The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its
beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their
achievements.

INTRODUCTION

Many of us have claimed the promise of James 1:5 often in our lives, whether we are facing a trial or facing a difficult decision.

Some of us are probably facing a trial of some kind right now. It may be a financial or a family trial. It could be a trial of health or some other kind of difficulty. We may have already struggled deeply in this trial. Some of us may be facing a major decision in life and need the Lord's wisdom.

Additional Scripture Readings:

Ask in Jesus' Name. John 14:8-14.
Abide in Christ and Ask. John 15:1-11.
Ask that Your Joy May Be Full. John 16:16-24.
I Believe; Help My Unbelief. Mark 9:14-29.
The Word of the Lord Endures. Isaiah 40:6-8.
The Shortness of Life. James 4:13-5:6.
Wisdom amid Trials. James 1:1-11.

1. God's plan in trials (James 1:1-4). James was the half-brother of the Lord Jesus (Mark 6:3) and a leader of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13), but he modestly called himself "a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ." He wrote this book to Jewish believers, "the twelve tribes" who had been "scattered abroad" (James 1:1). James addressed several topics in his book, the first being how to handle trials.

In verses 2-4, James set out God's plan for us in our trials. His plan is that we will "count it all joy when [we] fall into divers temptations" (vs. 2). (The word "temptations" refers to trials rather than temptations to sin.) Trials may not in themselves be joyful experiences, but believers are to have an attitude of joy as they go through them.

James stated that these trials will test our faith at times (vs. 3). So why should believers have an attitude of joy as they go through these trials? Because adopting this attitude will lead to patience, which will eventually result in making believers "perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (vs. 4), or, in other words, spiritually mature.

The key to this process is for believers to let patience have "her perfect work" in them. Many times, believers want to get out of trials as soon as possible, but God wants them to stay in them until they have learned the lessons He wants them to learn (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

2. Our response in trials (James 1:5-11). God wants His children to approach their trials with an attitude of joy, but that is not an easy task. So what should we do when it is difficult to be joyful? Verse 5 provides the answer. If anyone needs wisdom to know how to handle trials in a joyful way, "let him ask of God." Praying and asking the Lord for His wisdom to be joyful in trials is the way to handle trials properly.

James gives four important truths in verse 5 about asking God for wisdom. First, God gives this wisdom to "all men," not just to some people. *Second,* God gives His wisdom "liberally." *Third,* God "upbraideth not," which means He never finds fault or scolds those who come to Him for asking too many times. *Fourth*, God promises that "it [wisdom] shall be given him." God will answer this prayer. It should be remembered that God's promise of wisdom applies to other areas of life besides our trials. When facing major decisions or undertaking a major task, everyone needs to ask God for His wisdom and help.

In verses 6-8, James gives us an additional instruction about asking God for wisdom in trials. God's children should ask "in faith, nothing wavering." They must believe firmly, without doubting, that God will provide His wisdom. Those who doubt are like a wave that is driven along wherever the wind pushes it. Doubters should not expect to receive God's wisdom, because they are double-minded and unstable in their ways.

In verses 9-11, James added one final thought to his discussion of asking God for wisdom. God's promise of wisdom does not depend on a person's economic or social status. People of low economic standing should rejoice because God is exalting them by giving them wisdom (vs. 9). People who are wealthy should also rejoice, because asking for wisdom brings them to see their need to trust God and not themselves (vs. 10). They should realize that high social and economic status will soon pass away (vs. 11). The only thing that matters is trusting in the Lord. The point of this section is that believers should ask God for wisdom, and He will give it.

PRACTICAL POINTS

No matter our rank, we should consider ourselves servants of Christ (James 1:1).

Our circumstances need not control our attitudes—we can rejoice in difficulty (vs. 2)!

As we endure difficulties, we can trust that God is growing us, even if we do not see how (vss. 3-4).

We should ask God for wisdom whenever we are confused (vs. 5).

God values faith highly, and so should we. Intentionally cultivate your faith (vss. 6-8).

All people are equal before God (vss. 9-10).

Impressive people will die and quickly be forgotten (vs. 11).

CONCLUSION

None of us is exempt from trials, whether large or small. The good news is that if we ask God, He will give us wisdom to know how to handle these trials.

Next week's lesson: It's another dimension to our wisdom study - ***"Wisdom Brings Blessings" – Proverbs 3:13-35***

Union Gospel Press, LifeStone