

James 1:5-8

Introduction:

1. James is a practical letter that deals with some important subjects relating to Christianity.
2. The introduction is given in 1:1.
 - a. James, the Lord's brother, was the inspired writer.
 - b. He sent this letter to Christians scattered throughout the world.
3. The main subject discussed in 1:2-18 is "facing temptations."
 - a. (vs.2-4) James shows us how we can profit from trials.
 - b. (vs.5-8) James shows us how to face trials so we can profit from them.

Discussion:

- I. (1:5) WE ARE TO ASK GOD FOR WISDOM
 - A. There are 2 kinds of wisdom.
 1. (3:15) One kind of wisdom is "*earthly*."
 2. (3:17) The other kind of wisdom comes "*from above*."
 - B. Some people demonstrate earthly wisdom when they face trials by:
 1. trusting in their own strength
 2. seeking wisdom from men
 3. losing control
 4. murmuring and complaining
 5. wanting others to feel sorry for them.
 - C. When we face trials the Lord wants us to ask Him for wisdom so we will know how to bear up under them.
 - D. We are assured that God will bless us with the wisdom we need.
 1. God will give it liberally (Matthew 7:7-8; Proverbs 2:1-6).
 2. He will not upbraid us for asking (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- II. (1:6-8) WE ARE TO ASK FOR WISDOM "*IN FAITH*"
 - A. (vs.6) We are not to waver like a wave in the sea.
 - B. (vs.7) One who wavers when he asks God for wisdom does not need to think that he will receive anything.
 - C. (vs.8) One who wavers is a double-minded person.
 1. A double-minded person is divided -- he is not truly committed to the Lord.
 2. Such a person will be unstable in all his ways -- he will not profit from his trials.
 - D. When we make a request of God we are to ask "*believing*" (Matthew 21:22).
- III. (1 Kings 3) AN EVENT IN SOLOMON'S LIFE ILLUSTRATES THESE PRINCIPLES
 - A. Solomon faced a great trial when he became king of Israel.
 1. (vs.5) God allowed Solomon to ask for a blessing.
 2. (vs.6-9) Solomon asked God to give him an understanding heart to judge His people.
 3. (vs.10) God was pleased with Solomon's request.
 4. (vs.11-13) God granted Solomon's request.
 - B. (vs.16-28) Solomon soon demonstrated the wisdom that God gave to him.

Conclusion:

1. (1:2-4) Christians can profit from trials in that they help us to develop patience and become perfect [complete].
2. (1:5-8) However, to profit from trials we must ask God for wisdom in faith.