

## The Letter of James: Transformed by Christ

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If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 1:5-8

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### Wisdom from God

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#### 1. What is wisdom?

- "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." (James 3:13-18)

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- "The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity... The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:1-3, 7)

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#### 2. Where does wisdom come from?

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"Science is an unstoppable force for human development that will deliver answers to our many questions about the universe, and solve many, if not all, of our human problems: disease, energy, pollution, poverty. At some stage in the future, science will be able to explain everything, and answer all our needs."

- *Can Science Explain Everything?*, by John Lennox

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- The place where God has revealed His wisdom is in the Bible.

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"For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:17-21)

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### 1. What is wisdom?

- Wisdom is the ability to live well by aligning ourselves with God's purposes.

### 2. Where does wisdom come from?

- God is the source of wisdom, and He has revealed His wisdom in the Bible.

### 3. How can we receive wisdom?

- Pray for wisdom as you study the Bible.
- Doubt is not occasional intellectual uncertainty, but a wavering back and forth between following God and friendship with the world.

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