

DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

LESSON NOTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 | HARD TIMES & WISDOM (JAMES 1:1-8) | PASTOR ADAM AZIZ

A GREETING FROM JAMES

James 1:1 (NKJV)... James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

- **JAMES – Reliable history says this is the one called JAMES THE JUST...**
 - The half-brother of Jesus (*Matthew 13:55*)
 - The brother of Jude (*Jude 1*)
 - Led the church in Jerusalem (*Acts 15:13*)
 - Had special resurrection appearance of Jesus (*1 Corinthians 15:7*)
 - Was martyred in Jerusalem (Pushed from a high point of the temple and beaten to death)

- **BONDSERVANT & LORD**
 - **Bondservant** = a slave; one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another.
 - **Lord** = Translates (Greek) as Master (of a slave).

- **TWELVE TRIBES – This was written very early in the history of the Church...**
 - This is at a time when the church was predominantly Jewish. Gentile believers had not yet been added to the Church.

- **SCATTERED – The twelve tribes were scattered through exile, persecution, & pressure.**

PATIENT ENDURANCE IN TRIALS

James 1:2-4 (NKJV)... My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- James knew trials are inevitable...
- **TRIALS** = affliction, persecution, trouble, or testing of any kind
- **COUNT IT ALL JOY** = greet it with joy... not distress or discouragement...
- **PATIENCE (Greek) HUPOMONE** = active endurance not passive waiting
- Hupomone comes from “hupo” (under) and “meno” (to stay, abide, remain). It means to remain under.
- Counting it all joy is faith’s response to times of trouble.
- Patient endurance is the characteristic of a person who is perfect and complete, lacking nothing... (*sanctified*)
- The natural tendency of trouble is not to sanctify, but to induce sin.
- Trouble REVEALS the heart. God REFINES the heart.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE WISDOM YOU NEED FROM GOD

James 1:5-8 (NKJV)... If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- **Trials bring a necessary opportunity to seek wisdom from God.**

- **When we are in a trial... we need WISDOM a lot more than we need KNOWLEDGE.**
 - KNOWLEDGE is the ability to take things apart.
 - WISDOM is the ability to put things together.

- **The language, “ask of God,” implies HUMILITY in coming to God...**
 - *Charles Spurgeon - “It does not say, ‘Let him buy of God, let him demand of God, let him earn from God.’ Oh! No – ‘let him ask of God.’ It is the beggar’s word. The beggar asks an alms. You are to ask as the beggar asks of you in the street, and God will give to you far more liberally than you give to the poor. You must confess that you have no merit of your own.”*

- **We must seek God when we want wisdom and He will speak that wisdom to us through His Word.**
 - Knowing God’s generosity and that He never despises or resents us for asking for wisdom should encourage us to ask Him and to ask Him often.

- **Our request for wisdom must be made like any other request – in faith... without doubting God’s ability OR His desire to give us His wisdom.**

- **The one who doubts or lacks faith should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.**
 - *Adam Clarke - "The man who is not thoroughly persuaded that if he ask of God he shall receive, resembles a wave of the sea; he is in a state of continual agitation; driven by the wind, and tossed: now rising by hope, then sinking by despair."*
 - A wave of the sea is a fitting description of someone who is hindered by unbelief and unnecessary doubt...
 - A wave of the sea is **WITHOUT REST**... and so is the doubter.
 - Doubt never rests... The only way to settle doubt is to apply faith.
 - A wave of the sea is **UNSTABLE**... and so is the doubter.
 - Instability shows up as **inconsistency** in a doubter.
 - A wave of the sea is **DRIVEN BY THE WINDS**... and so is the doubter.
 - If the wind changes... so does the doubter.
 - What does it mean to be double-minded? To be in the middle ground between faith and unbelief is to be double-minded.
 - According to D. Edmond Hiebert... **double-minded is literally TWO-SOULED.**
 - *Adam Clarke - "The man of two souls, who has one for the earth, and another for heaven: who wishes to secure in both worlds; he will not give up earth, and he is unwilling to let heaven go."*
 - **Revelation 3:16 (NKJV)... Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.**

Charles Spurgeon - "Do you believe that God can give you wisdom, and that he will do so if you ask him? Then, go at once to him, and say, 'Lord, this is what I need.' Specify your wants, state your exact condition, lay the whole case before God with as much orderliness as if you were telling your story to an intelligent friend who was willing to hear it, and prepared to help you; and then say, 'Lord, this is specifically what I think I want; and I ask this of thee believing that thou canst give it to me.'"