

The Christian Arsenal

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HOW TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND Developing a Faith That Works

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Part 3 of 7
James 1:5-11

INTRO: James 1:5-11

"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.

Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field, he will pass away.

For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So, the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits."

Quote from Frank Borham: "We make our decisions and then our decisions make us."

The quality of your life will be determined by the kind of decisions you make in life.

1. THE PROBLEM: INDECISION

"A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." (v.8)

Double-minded literally means – "two-souled"; pulled apart in different directions, divided loyalties, divided priorities

THREE WAYS INDECISION MAKES YOU UNSTABLE:

- Unstable emotions
- Unstable relationships
- Unstable spiritual life

"That man will not think that he'll receive anything from the Lord." (v.7)

On Sunday you come and sing, "Onward Christian Soldier" and on Monday you go A.W.O.L. Double-mindedness produces a double life.

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2. THE PRESCRIPTION: GET WISDOM

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to him.” (v.5,6)

STEP ONE: ADMIT YOUR NEED

“If any of you lack wisdom ...” (v. 5a)

Greek word – “sophia” wisdom

“phila” love = philosophy – “the love of wisdom”

Definition of wisdom: Practical application of the Bible.

The world is impressed with knowledge – God is impressed with wisdom.

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”
Prov. 11:2

STEP TWO: ASK FOR WISDOM

“...he should ask God ...” (v. 5b)

“It is the Lord who gives wisdom, from Him comes knowledge and understanding.” Prov. 2:6 (GN)

Twenty times in the New Testament it says, “Ask, and it shall be given.”

STEP THREE: ANTICIPATE IT

“...But when he asks he must believe and not doubt.” (v. 6)

First, you must ask the right person. Then you’ve got to ask the right way – in faith, believing, not doubting.

“He who doubts is like the wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.” (v.6)

“And without faith it is impossible to please God. Anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”
Hebrews 11:6

Faith is thanking God in advance.

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3. THE PROMISE: GOD WILL GIVE IT!

"If any man lacks wisdom he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (v. 5)

HOW GOD WILL GIVE WISDOM

- Continually – "ask God who gives ..."
- Generously – His resources are unlimited
- Cheerfully – "... without finding fault..."

CONSIDERATIONS FROM THIS PASSAGE

1. God does not want to make the decision for you.
2. God's wisdom is found in God's word.

"God's Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

WHAT IS JAMES SAYING? You will live your life either by chance or choice.

The greatest decision you'll ever make in life is this: Who's going to be Number one in your life?