

James 1 - When You Don't Know What To Do Pt.1

October 5, 2014 AM

James 1:2-8

- 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
- 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
- 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
- 5 **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.**
- 6 **But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.**
- 7 **For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.**
- 8 **A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**

- **wisdom** (*sophia*) from "saphes" clear, clarity, wisdom, insight, skill, intelligence
- **liberally** (*haplos*) simply, sincerely, graciously, bountifully, unfolded, without undue complications, holding nothing back
- **upbraideth** (*oneidizo*) reproach, revile, disgrace, cast blame, cast shame, insult
- **wavering** (*diakrino*) separate, doubt, hesitate, waver, "thoroughly back-and-forth"

The heart is so fickle and disloyal when suffering in trials. That is when we can be the most vulnerable to unbelief, self-indulgence, murmuring and complaining, self-pity, unforgiveness, bitterness, revenge and rebellion.

Based upon our reaction, trials can be the times of our greatest growth or our worst spiritual failures. Trials are times of heightened spiritual warfare in a weakened condition.

Wisdom from God becomes critical to our success in the trial, in properly discerning:

- *God's heart, purposes & will*
- *truth and justice*
- *our heart & carnal flaws*

Wavering faith when asking for wisdom...

- *"God doesn't or won't speak to me; He'll speak to me through someone else."*
- *"God speaking directly or personally has passed away; it doesn't happen today."*
- *"I'm not spiritual enough or good enough to hear God speak."*
- *"I'm not sure God's method is the best method; what if there is a better way?"*
- *"What if it fails and I look foolish?"*

Hearing from God requires...

- *meditation and a heart focused on the Word of God*
- *a heart in which all desires and self-will are surrendered*
- *practice...practice...practice*
- *willingness to risk mistakes*

Hebrews 8:10–13

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

11 **And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: FOR ALL SHALL KNOW ME, from the least to the greatest.**

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

THE WAYS GOD STILL SPEAKS TODAY (*to me!*)

1. HIS WORD

Proverbs 6:20-23

20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

21 **Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.**

22 **When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.**

23 **For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:**

- **bind** (*qosrem*) *tie, bind, league together, conspire, to secure with a rope, string or cord*
- **lead** (*nachah*) *be in charge of, lead, conduct*
- **keep** (*shamar*) *to guard, keep watch over, preserve*
- **talk** (*siach*) *let something be known, to meditate with, to muse, to tell, speak*

John 16:13–15

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: **for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

- **guide** (*hodegeo*) *to lead one's way, to meet, instruct, teach, guide*

2. THE INNER VOICE OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT

Isaiah 30:19–22

19 For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: Thou shalt weep no more: He will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; When he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, **Yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, But thine eyes shall see thy teachers:**

21 **AND THINE EARS SHALL HEAR A WORD BEHIND THEE, SAYING, THIS IS THE WAY, WALK YE IN IT, WHEN YE TURN TO THE RIGHT HAND, AND WHEN YE TURN TO THE LEFT.**

22 Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, And the ornament of thy molten images of gold: Thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; Thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.

John 16:13–15

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and HE WILL SHEW YOU THINGS TO COME.**

14 He shall glorify me: **for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

- **shew** (*anagello*) to tell the way clearly, to declare completely, ana - completing a process, gello - to declare

Acts 16:6–10 (*Paul's second missionary journey*)

6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and **were forbidden of the Holy Ghost** to preach the word in Asia,

7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: **but the Spirit suffered them not.**

8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

9 And **a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.**

10 **And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.**

SEE ALSO Acts 10:9–33

3. GODLY COUNSEL

We must be cautious and discerning with whom we receive counsel from and with whom we open our heart and life to.

Proverbs 12:15

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: But he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."

Proverbs 19:20

"Hear counsel, and receive instruction, That thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."

Proverbs 11:14

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Proverbs 15:22

"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: But in the multitude of counsellors they are established."

Proverbs 20:18

"Every purpose is established by counsel: And with good advice make war."

Proverbs 24:5–6

5 A wise man is strong; Yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: And in multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Proverbs 27:9

"Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: So doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel."

4. **CIRCUMSTANCES**

We are not to be controlled by circumstances, but we must able to discern God's sovereignty at work behind the circumstances.

Acts 8:14–17

14 Now **when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:**

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 16:7–9

7 For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, **if the Lord permit.**

8 But **I will tarry at Ephesus** until Pentecost.

9 **For a great door and effectual is opened unto me,** and there are many adversaries.

2 Corinthians 2:12–13

12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and **a door was opened unto me of the Lord,**

13 **I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother:** but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

Revelation 3:7–8

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, **he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;**

8 I know thy works: behold, **I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:** for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.