James

Series: When Faith Works
Title: Faith Responds to Trials, Part 2
Lesson - Two

Text: James 1:5-8
Date: Nov. 29, 2026

1. Who we belong to (1)

James 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

"slave" ⟶ "Lord"

2. How to view trials (2)

2. Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3. Why God allows trials (3-4)

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Trials ⟶ Testing ⟶ Endurance ⟶ Maturity

4. What God requires us to do

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,

"But" [de] - It emphasizes contrast

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, ***lacking*** in nothing.

5 But if any of you ***lacks*** wisdom, let him ask of God,

James is contrasting our present spiritual deficiencies with God's ultimate goal of developing us into spiritually mature believers who lack nothing.

"wisdom"

"if" - Assumed to be true.

Why God allows trials:

1. **They break us of our _____.**

2. **They drive us to _____.**

Trials create a healthy urgency that moves prayer from an optional spiritual choice to an immediate

_____.

3. They show us that maturity requires

_____.

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am ***weak***, then I am ***strong.***

Paul demonstrates that human weakness isn't a barrier to spiritual maturity, it is the channel through which God's strength becomes ours.

5 But if any of you lacks ***wisdom***, let him ask of God,

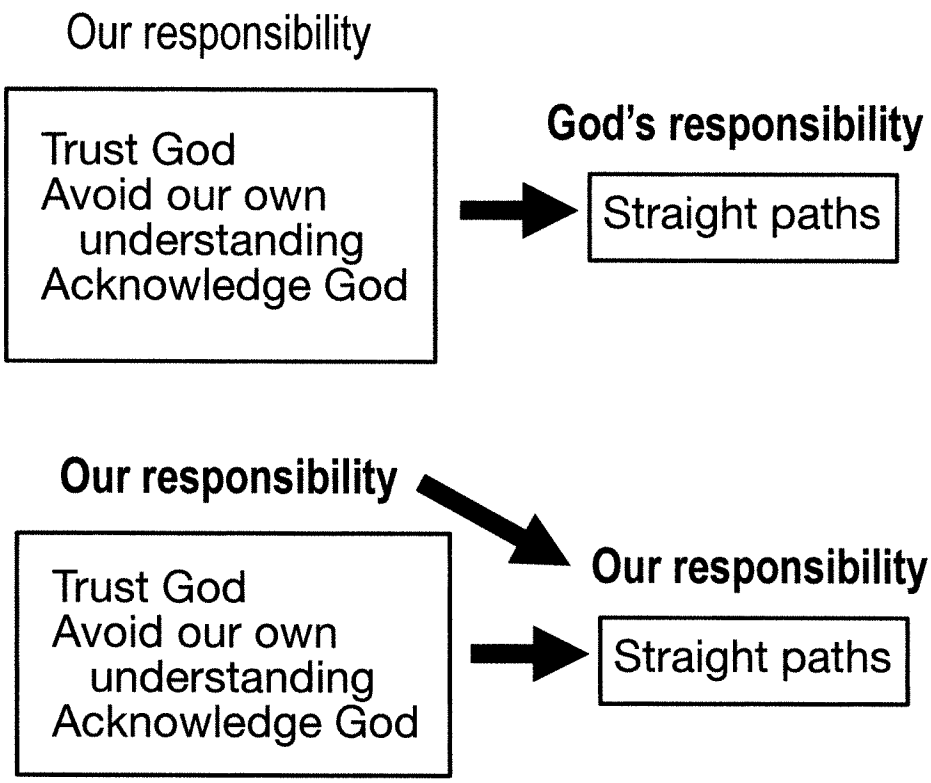
Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

"Trust"

"own understanding"

"acknowledge"

"paths straight"



5b But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,-5a who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

"who gives" = "the giving God"

"generously"

"reproach"

6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting,

"But" [de]

"doubting"

Mark 9:24 Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "I do believe; help my unbelief."

God answers prayer even though our faith is weak and

_____ with unbelief.

"doubting" - "Divided loyalty"

6b for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

"anything from the Lord"

"double-minded"

"unstable"

God withholds answers to our prayers, not because of weak faith, but _____.

Implications

How we can improve our prayers when facing trials:

1. When trials come, it's okay to pray for relief, but don't stop there; also pray for _____.

A. Pray for God to _____ the trial, if that is His will.

2 Corinthians 12:7–8 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

Matthew 26:39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

B. Pray for the right _____. (vv. 2–3)

C. Pray for spiritual _____. (v. 4)

D. Pray for God's _____. (v. 5)

E. Pray for confidence in God's

_____. (v. 5)

F. Pray for unwavering _____. (vv. 6–8)

A biblical prayer

Father, when trials press in on us, we ask, if it is Your will, that You would remove the trial and bring relief. Give us Your perspective to see what You're doing beneath the surface, and shape us into spiritual maturity. Where we need direction, give us Your wisdom, and anchor us in who You are =, a God who gives generously without reproach. Heal our divided hearts and grant us unwavering faith, so we rest steady in Your care.

Discussion Guide

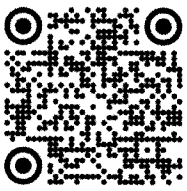
1. Why do difficult circumstances often expose the limits of our own strength and understanding, and how can recognizing our need for God help us grow spiritually?

2. What are some specific things we should ask God to develop in us while we are going through difficult circumstances?

3. What does it mean to ask God for wisdom?

4. What is the difference between struggling with weak faith and being double-minded?

5. What is one trial in which you need God's wisdom right now?



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