

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie stands on a gravel path that leads towards a bright, hazy horizon. He is wearing glasses and has a serious expression. He holds a large, brown teddy bear in his left arm and a brown briefcase in his right hand. The background is a vast, open landscape under a bright sky.

James

It is time

to grow

up!

Men to Men Ministry

Lesson 3

Wisdom and Knowledge

James 1:5-11

TRIALS – LAST WEEK

James 1: 2-4

² Consider it all joy, my brothers *and sisters*, when you encounter various trials, 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.

Spiritual beings living an earthly existence.

- **There is no escaping trials**
- **It is our choice in how we deal with them.**
- **Jewish history of great highs and lows.**
- **Trials are evidence of God working in us**
 - **God is not done with you yet.**
 - **God still wants to change you, to make you better.**
- **The choice is between God's solution or yours.**
 - **To give it all is God's solution**
 - **To reserve anything from God is your solution.**
 - **To reserve anything from God changes trial to temptation.**
- **Trials require an eternal perspective.**

James 1:5-11

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

6) But he must ask in faith without any doubting, 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.

9) But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;

10) and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because alike flowering grass he will pass away.

11) For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

The Big “IF”

“BUT IF any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God”

Four kinds of people:

1. Those who have wisdom and no one listens because of past failure

“I can do all things, but no one cares.”

2. There are those who don't not know their need of wisdom

“I can do all things.”

3. There are those who know they need wisdom and don't ask

“I can't do anything”

4. There are those who understand their lack and ask God.

“I can do all things, IN Christ who strengthens me.”

If TRIALS are a part of our lives, WHAT is my response to them?
IF TRIALS happen no matter of my spiritual condition, WHY
doesn't God automatically step in and help?
IF TRIALS happen and I don't know what to do about them,
WHAT should I do?

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

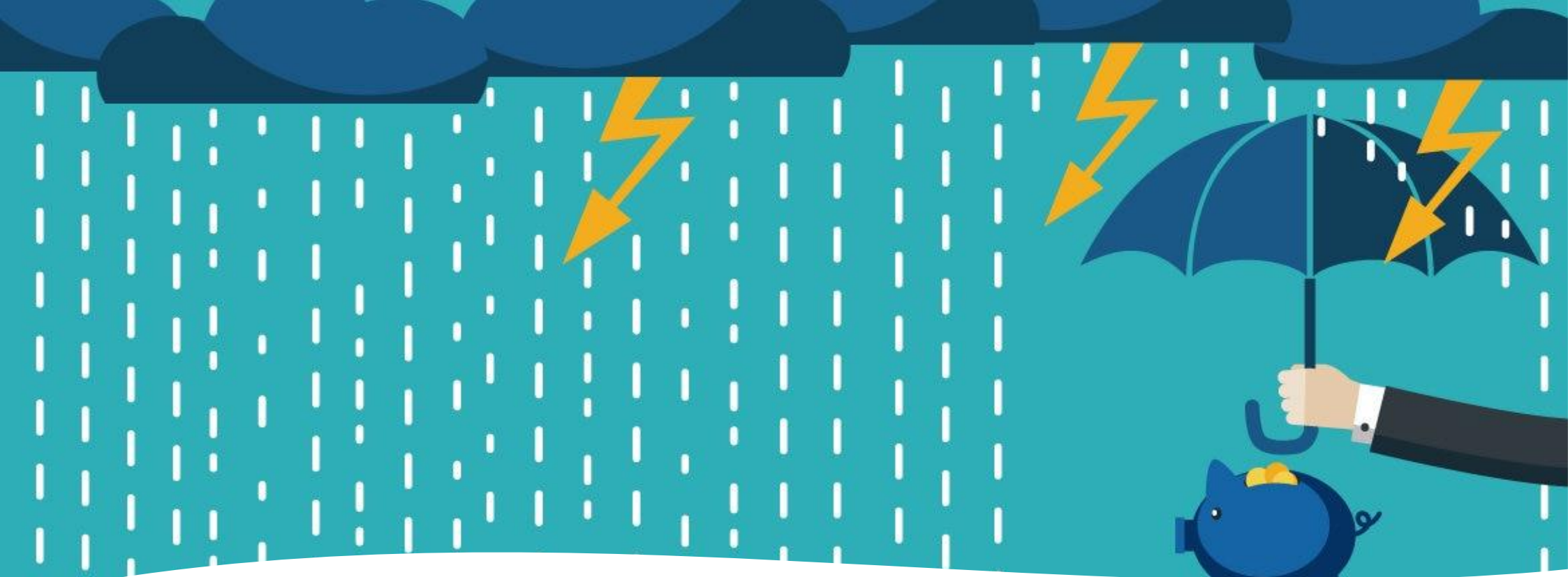
5) But if any of you lacks wisdom,
let him ask of God, who gives to all
generously and without reproach,
and **it will be given to him.**

1. I lack wisdom in the middle of my trial
2. I ask of God who has the ability to give
3. God without measure and with generosity.
4. God who smiles in love and no condemnation
5. God gives to the person who asks.

PARADOX

- Paul said, “**When I am weak, then I am strong**” 2 Corinthians 12:10.
- Jesus said, “**Anyone who finds his life will lose it, and anyone who loses his life because of me will find it.**” Matthew 10:39.
- Jesus said, “**Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant.**” Mark 10:43.
- Paul said, “**We own nothing, and yet we have everything.**” 2 Corinthians 6:10.
- Jesus said, “**The last will be first and the first last.**” Matthew 20:16





Promised Provision

1. If I lack wisdom (the need),
2. let him ask (the method),
3. God (the provider),
4. will provide (the promise),
5. to all (the scope),
6. generously (the amount),
7. without reproach (the attitude of God),
8. it will be given (the act),
9. him (the recipient).

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

PARADOX of Provision and Faith

But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- Is having faith a prerequisite of provision?**
- Is having faith that the provision is the solution?**

The paradox is someone who would ask, then ignore the provision

Double minded

But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

The key here is that once given the Wisdom of understanding the trial we must have faith in that provision.

“I know God can”

“I know God does”

“I know God did”

“But I don’t like the provision”

“I will go back to figuring it out myself.”

**No doubt in God and his provision.
BUT a lack of commitment to the solution.**

**It is going back to personal lack.
The doubt is a rejection of the supplied provision.**

**BECAUSE FAITH WITHOUT ACTION ON THE
PROVISION IT IS DEAD**

Paradox of the rich and poor

9) But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;
10) and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because alike flowering grass he will pass away.
11) For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

- **One will be tested in their poverty and the other in their wealth. They both need faith and wisdom to face the test that will come.**
- **The poor will be challenged to endure the trials that come with having very little.**
- **The rich will be challenged with trials that wealth can not fix.**

Provision: The act of God on which we are expected to act.

- **God is a giving God**
- **God gives generously**
- **God gives without fault**
- **God gives without favorites**
- **God gives when asked**
- **God has a will for your life.**

The Use of Wisdom

Study insights

1. A joyful attitude V 2
 2. An understanding of mind V3
 3. A surrendered will V 4, 9-11
 4. A heart that wants to believe in the
God's solution V5-8
- Next week
5. Exercise of the Word of God V16-18

