

Faith Alive!

An Undivided Heart

James 1:5-8

Physicians Code of Honor:

primum non nocere

‘in the first place, do no harm’

*As to disease, make a habit of two things: to help,
or at least to do no harm.... (Hippocrates)*

Not:

primum non infligete dolor

‘in the first place, cause no pain’

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James 1:5-8

Single-minded, unwavering conviction of God's goodness and power even (especially!) in the midst of trials...

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1:5a - Wisdom

- **Context: lacking wisdom**

- **We're not to ask for answers, but for wisdom**
- **Not: Guidance in daily living**
- **Rather: Wisdom in times of testing and trials**

The wisdom to respond to tests and trials in such a way that these work, in practice, for my good and His glory

- **Wisdom, not just mere knowledge**

Wisdom is knowledge skillfully applied in everyday life; especially knowledge about God and His ways.

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1:5b – God, the Giver

- **Wisdom is a gift from God**

See Exodus 33:11,12

True spiritual wisdom is involves knowledge and discernment into God's ways with us

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1:5b – God, the Giver

- Wisdom is a gift from God
- God's nature is to give: generously and without rebuke

– *'the God who gives'* – it is His nature

He is the source of every good and perfect gift...
James 1:17; John 3:16; etc.

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1:5b – God, the Giver

- Wisdom is a gift from God
- God's nature is to give: generously and without rebuke
 - *'the God who gives'* – it is His nature
 - He gives generously
without reservation, hesitation, or internal conflict
 - He gives without rebuke
not grudgingly or expressing displeasure

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1:5b – God, the Giver

- **Wisdom is a gift from God**
- **God's nature is to give: generously and without rebuke**
 - **An encouragement to approach God in prayer!**
See Matt 7:9-11 & Jeremiah 29:11

God is like a pitcher tilted toward his children, just waiting to pour wisdom over the trial-parched landscape of their lives, if they will but ask.

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1:6-8 – Asking in faith – not doubting

- **Faith**

- Central to our relationship with God – see Heb 11:6
- Often ‘a work in progress’ – see Mark 9:24
- Commanded!

- **Faith’s lack**

Unstable, agitated, constantly churning whitecaps

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1:6-8 – Asking in faith – not doubting

- **Faith**

- Central to our relationship with God – see Heb 11:6
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- Commanded!

- **Faith’s lack**

- **The doubter**

Can’t settle on one choice or point of view – internally divided.

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1:6-8 – Asking in faith – not doubting

- **Faith**

- Central to our relationship with God – see Heb 11:6
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- Commanded!

- **Faith’s lack**

- **The doubter**

- **A ‘double-minded’ person**

Literally: ‘man of two souls’ (hearts, psyches, minds)

Hesitating, vacillating between conflicting thoughts

Divided allegiance

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Personal Application

- **We're to ask for wisdom, not for answers**
 - “How can I respond to what my loving, gracious, all-wise and all-powerful brings my way – respond so that that it works for my good and for His glory?”

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Personal Application

- **We're to ask for wisdom, not for answers**
- **God, the 'Water Pitcher'!**

God is like a pitcher tilted toward his children, just waiting to pour wisdom over the trial-parched landscape of their lives, if they will but ask

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Personal Application

- **We're to ask for wisdom, not for answers**
- **God, the 'Water Pitcher'!**
- **Is my heart undivided?**
 - **I Kings 18:21**
 - **Daniel 3:16-18**
 - **An unwavering conviction: "Good You are, and good You do"! (Ps 119:68)**