Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #21

God is the Source of Wisdom

**James 1:5 (NASB)** *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*.”

One of the most frustrating and potentially debilitating things in life is when something challenging happens to us that we can’t figure out. When we are thrust into a situation that is out of our control and we have no answers. It is not only frustrating but extremely challenging to our faith and hope in God. But that is the point isn’t it - at least from God’s perspective. Don’t get me wrong, God is not toying with us or doing anything to harm us, but He is growing us. It is through the challenges in life that we turn to Him for answers and wisdom.

In the verses just prior to verse 5, James makes this noticeably clear. ***James 1:2-4 (NASB)*** *2  “Consider it all joy, my brethren, 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*.” Yes, God really does want us to accept the truth that the difficulties we experience are designed by Him to teach us to have a heart of joy and patience and endurance so that we may be the people He wants us to be. It takes the difficulties of life to force us to rely and trust Him.

But how do we trust God without some means of dealing with the problems? For instance, we still must live each day and make decisions that require wisdom. No one wants to go through life throwing caution to the wind. So what are we to do? How do we gain the wisdom for the next step? Some of you are facing layoffs; some are facing furlough; some are trying to help your children get answers to their problems; some are seeking wisdom about how to face physical challenges. So, what are we do to? The answer is simple - we ask God.

When we lack discernment and need help getting to the next step; when we don’t even know what the next step is, we ask God. It is as simple as it sounds. He will give us the wisdom we need and give it generously. Sometimes He lets time go by and sometimes He gives us the answer immediately. That is all according to His divine plan for us to make us into His image. But the truth is He will give answers. Sometimes those answers come with a lot of work on our part, such as seeking doctors, or other professionals. Sometimes it requires us to spend time in study and seeking help from others who have been through similar circumstances, but God has promised that He will provide His children the wisdom they need to face whatever they are experiencing. By the way, this statement in James is a command, not a suggestion. “*Let him ask of God”* is a command that God gives to say to us.  It is not optional. He wants us to come to Him for wisdom in our times of difficulties.

I am reminded of what Solomon wrote in one of his proverbs, **Proverbs 3:5-7 (NASB)** *5  “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. 7  Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil*.” In our asking for wisdom, we are to be fully trusting God for what He will give us when He knows it is best to give it to us.  We are not to depend our ourselves and what we know. Our knowledge is extremely limited when it comes to things that are thrust upon us without warning. But God says if we will completely surrender our hearts and minds to Him in the situation, He will make the path clear. That doesn’t mean it will happen overnight, but in His time and His way, He will lead us where He wants us. Our job is to seek Him and trust Him and ask Him for the wisdom we need.

Beloved, it is vitally important in times like this that you remember a couple things. First, God loves you. Secondly, He only has your best interest at heart. Thirdly, He is more than capable to complete what He as started in you. Let go of your fears and pray. Pray that He will give you wisdom for the next step. For some of you today, that next step may be taking out the trash and that’s all you can see and know right now. But isn’t this moment the only thing we have anyway? We don’t have the guarantee of our next breath. So why worry when you can trust Him?