

“Am I Wise Enough To Know That I Need Wisdom?” *James 1:5*

We can use our volition to build a fortress on the Rock with God's grace solutions as our construction material or we can choose to build on the sand of the devil's world. The more we use the provision of God's grace, the more joy we'll have in our lives! The issue in James 1:2-4 is not to reveal what we don't know but to encourage us with what we already know for the purpose of charting the progress of our perseverance in our quest for spiritual momentum. Our personal sense of our own Christian destiny in life teaches us that today's decisions effect eternity. What we do here and now correlates with who we'll be and what we'll be doing as far as our future responsibilities are concerned in eternity. Our primary goal is to saturate ourselves with biblical truth so we can begin to think like the Lord Jesus Christ thinks and that can only mean sure experiential victory. Let's face it; even though we all fully know that we shouldn't live by bread alone, it's a never-ending battle to constantly feed ourselves with a daily diet of divine viewpoint. Serious renovation requires the complete rebuilding of a structure; not simply the rearranging of its furniture. God wants gold, silver and precious stones for you at the Judgement Seat of His Son but that begs the obvious question for us all: 'Is that what we want for ourselves?' A test in our context refers to external circumstances that arouse the sinful nature of man into some form of egotistical, satanically inspired self-reliance. Most people cannot distinguish between the evils of self-promoting human good and the virtue of humility-promoted divine good. The test for us remains to either apply biblical truth or not and therefore, the temptation is not to apply the mind of Christ to our situation but to rely on our former human viewpoint coping skills to somehow carry us through. There is no circumstance in life that is beyond God's control and His desire to provide all the answers to our problems. And there is no power greater than God's omnipotence and He is also omniscient and omnipresent. No biblical focus in life will guarantee no lasting joy experienced in life. When we find ourselves in adversity, the most unnatural thing to do is pause and think for a moment to analyze our options; it's usually just 'Get me out of here ASAP.' Grace means we get what we don't deserve and mercy means we don't get what we do deserve! Perseverance requires self-discipline leading to priority adjustments. And throughout our Christian experience, we must remember that our only valid role model is the world's only true celebrity, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Book of James takes us from orthodoxy to orthopraxy; orthodoxy is accurate belief in God's truth as hearers and orthopraxy is proper application of that truth which is already believed, as doers. Wisdom is knowing and doing the will of God and knowing and doing the will of God requires wisdom. Wisdom is knowledge of what is true or right combined with good judgment and the good judgment comes from relying on our Advocate, God the Holy Spirit. Wisdom is our inventory of biblical truth processed under the mentorship ministry of the Holy Spirit combined with our positive response to that truth, resulting in our perception, meditation on and application of the mind of Christ. Humility is the basis for teachability and teachability paves the road to wisdom and no one has or will ever attain wisdom apart from virtue and humility and from virtue comes great happiness! Our wisdom is based upon our interest in the plan of God for our lives and how we look at death is how we'll look at life. Reaction to life manufactures arrogant preoccupation with self and with that, we're divorced from reality and have no wisdom, common sense or spiritual discernment. Wisdom promotes genuine humility, true love, bona fide worship, morality, courage and circumstantial confidence.

Through poor judgment and bad decisions from lack of acquired wisdom, believers manufacture their own frustrating circumstances as well as their own frustrating environment. Actually, mankind is designed for servitude, which means every living person either serves God in His experiential plan or Satan in his world system and we cannot reject the written Word of God and serve Him. Biblical wisdom from the Hebrew *chokmah* meaning 'skill' is the craftsman's application of biblical principles to life. In the spiritual life, the issue is NOT physical, biological or genetic. Wisdom is skillfully applying biblical truth (which was previously stored in our soul inventory) to life's trials so that our lives bring glory to God! The key to the Christian life is to get to spiritual maturity and stay there.