



Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

Week 4—Embrace the Place God Has for Me

1. James 1:6 says that when we ask God for wisdom, we must “believe and not doubt”. What do you think this means? Have you ever asked God for something and to the best of your ability it was “without doubt” and yet God did not grant your request? Why do you think that would happen?
2. Pastor Rick said there are two characteristics about God’ character that make it possible for us to have complete faith in him, what are they? If nothing is impossible for God, then why do you think that so few Christians really ever attempt to accomplish great things in this life for God, like the people in the Bible? Why are we not killing our “Goliaths”?
3. Read James 1:6-8. What do you think it means to be “double minded” as a Christian? According to this passage, what is the result of being double minded?
4. What are the four characteristics of a person who is not double minded but has a rock solid faith from the message? What are the five purposes God wants every Christian to incorporate into their life? Which one of the purposes resonates with you, the one you would most like to accomplish? Which one do you struggle with the most to incorporate into your life?
5. Read James 1:9-11. This says that a poor person has a high position and a wealthy person has a low position. What do you think this means?
6. Read James 1:12. In this verse, what are the trials we go through called? Who is testing us and why? What does God give to those who pass the test? Persevering faithfully in your trials is proof of what?

ANSWERS

1. To believe and not doubt is to not only believe that God can do something, but also that he would want to do something. When we ask for things that we know for certain are God's will, such as when we pray for God to give us the wisdom we need to handle our trials correctly, we can be absolutely sure that God will always say "yes" to those requests. When we ask for things for ourselves, God is going to answer according to what he knows we need at that time. I can ask God to heal me from my pain, but if it is his plan to use that pain, that trial, to make me more like Jesus, he might say "no". In that case the faith you need is to trust God that he knows what is best for you and will use your pain to grow you spiritually.
2. The first characteristic is that nothing is impossible for God to do and the second is nothing God allows to happen to us is ever to harm us. The reason why Christians do not accomplish more for God is because they do not really believe that they can (lack of faith in God) or they do not really believe that serving God is the best thing they can do with their lives (lack of focus on God).
3. To be double minded literally means to "be of two minds", or in other words, to vacillate between two ideas that contradict each other. The example from James 1 would be to on one hand believe that God will give you wisdom to handle your trials but then think that your trials are too much for you to handle and God cannot or will not give you what you need. It would be a Christian who on one hand desires to serve God but on the other hand will not commit their lives completely to God because of material possessions that they want or they do not trust that God will provide their needs. It is the struggle between the spirit and the flesh within us. The result of being double minded is that they are unstable spiritually and God will not answer their prayers.
4. The four characteristics are to: 1. Read God's Word; 2. Obey God's Will; 3. Choose God's Path; and 4. Know God's Purposes. The five purposes are to 1. Glorify God in all you do (worship); 2. Form relationships with other believers (fellowship); 3. To become more and more like Jesus (discipleship) 4. To be involved in a church ministry meeting the needs of others (service) and 5. to share the message of the gospel with people who do not know Christ as savior. (evangelism).
5. The reason God says that a poor, or person of humble means has a high position is that their faith in God is greater because they have nothing else to rely on. A wealthy person typically tends not to trust God as much because they trust in their wealth, so they have a low position. This is in God's economy based on what he values as being important.
6. This verse calls our trials a test. God uses our trials to test the genuineness of our faith and to build it stronger. If you pass the test by relying on God to handle your trials, you are given the reward called the "crown of life". It says that this crown is given to those who love God, so relying on God in the midst of your struggles is a proof of your love for God.