

## **ARE YOU LACKING?** **(James 1:5-8)**

### **I. All you have to do is ask.**

- A. James tells us that there first must be a realization of a lack of wisdom.
  - 1. Many areas in which we may not know which choice to make or road to take.
  - 2. It may be a financial, family, relationship, job or spiritual area from which a question may arise.
  - 3. We need to first realize a need for help.
- B. We then need to ask God (elab about simply asking).
- C. When God gives He gives plentifully.
- D. When God gives He doesn't make you feel bad for asking.
- E. He promises to give it.
  - 1. Some prayers are answered conditionally.
  - 2. This one is not - it is answered definitely.

### **II. There is a condition that must be met.**

- A. When we ask we must ask in faith.
  - 1. We must believe that God is going to give us the needed wisdom.
  - 2. We must know that God will do what He has promised to do.
- B. The word "wavering" simply means divided thinking.
  - 1. There is no room for disbelief when asking for God's wisdom in a situation.
  - 2. There must be full felt belief that you will receive that for which you are asking.
  - 3. There is no room for debate about whether or not God will do what He has said He will do.
  - 4. Like the little boy who brought an umbrella to the prayer meeting called during dry weather.
- C. When you doubt you are like a wave of the sea: at one point you are headed for shore at another you are back out to sea.
  - 1. There is nothing settled in your mind.
  - 2. Like pulling the rose petals off saying, he loves me, he loves me not.
  - 3. There is no room for doubt in the mind of the child of God.

### **III. There is a promise that is made.**

- A. James gives us another definite promise from God.
- B. You will get nothing from Him if you come to Him doubting.
- C. He has promised us wisdom when we ask for it.
- D. He now promises us nothing if we lack faith.
  - 1. Lack of faith in God causes unhappiness.
  - 2. No one can be happy when they think they might get something but then start doubting they will.
  - 3. When we act like that there is no way we can expect anything from God.

### **IV. There is a description given.**

- A. One who acts this way is described as being double-minded.
  - 1. James is the only NT writer to use this word (4:8).
  - 2. Other non-biblical writers used it after James but none before.
- B. This word means of two souls or two minds.

1. This is an apt description for someone who doubts God.
  2. There is competition for your affections when you are like this and you can't be happy trying to serve two people.
- C. This type of person is unstable.
1. This word carries the idea of walking like a drunkard.
  2. You go stagger one way and then the other: you go towards God then away from Him.
- D. This is a picture of the on-again-off-again type Christian.