

**WISDOM FOR OUR WOES**  
*James 1:5-8 // August 3, 2025 PM*

I. Seek God *for a wise heart* in exile (v. 5).

II. Seek God *with a whole heart* in exile (vv. 6-8).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Why would William Ames define theology as “the doctrine of living to God”? Do you agree with this definition? Why, or why not?
2. What is wisdom? Why does James turn to the subject of wisdom after telling us about God’s good purposes in the trials we face?
3. What encouragements does James give us to ask God for wisdom in the complexities of our trials and the confusion that often accompanies them?
4. What is the one characteristic that our asking must have if it would be answered? Why?
5. What does James mean when he speaks of doubting? Is he saying Christians can never struggle with doubt? How does his imagery of a wave and his language of the double-souled help us to understand what he means?
6. In what specific ways can we be tempted to look to the world for wisdom in our trials instead of to the God of heaven?
7. Can you give a couple of examples in this passage where James clearly follows the teaching of Jesus in the sermon on the mount (Matt. 5-7)?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Do I sense my need of supernatural wisdom every day and seek it from my generous God in believing prayer?
2. In a recent trial, how was I tempted to look to worldly wisdom for guidance or deliverance? What worldly idol am I most prone to put my trust in when suffering?
3. If Jesus were to speak directly to me, would He address me as “dear heart” or “double heart”?