

The Right Resource for Trials

James 1:2-8

James 1:2–8 (NKJV)

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Introduction:

An average of 13 Christians killed every day. That's nearly 400 Christians dying every month. Just because they follow Jesus.

These are staggering and sobering statistics. This year, the total number of Christian martyrs increased from 4,305 (WWL 2020) to 4,761 (WWL 2021). Keep in mind that this number is likely to be much lower than the actual reality because, especially in closed countries like North Korea and Afghanistan or conflict-ridden places like Somalia and Libya, killings are often done in secrecy and/or go unreported. No one in a North Korean prison camp or a Muslim tribe in Somalia is reporting the murder of a Christian.

- 4,488 Churches or Christian buildings were attacked
- 4,277 Christians were unjustly arrested, detained or imprisoned
- 1,710 Christians were abducted for faith-related reasons.

Across the top 50 countries on the World Watch List, pressure is rising. In 2021, all 50 countries registered a “very high” level of persecution, up from 45 in 2020. The total points of persecution scores in these 50 countries have spiked, and the threshold to get into the top 50 has risen again.

Persecution against Christians has risen for 15 consecutive years.<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/13-christians-killed-every-day/>

This is a difficult and tragic reality of our world we live in. But this kind of persecution is to be expected. Jesus said if the world hated him and hate you also.

You and I can expect persecution non-compromising Christians it's going to be on the rise even more so you're in the United States of America.

But we don't anticipate to be a subject of a cosmic war or disagreement between God and Satan. Most of the trials and difficulties that you and I experiences believers who is considered to be part of living in a fallen world. We have disease and death because we live in a fallen world. We have strife, arguments, disagreements, separation and divorce because we live in a cursed earth full of sin.

Our car breaks down and refrigerator quits because of the second law of the thermodynamics, the law that says things are going from order to disorder, from design to decay. There is war because men are evil and conflict because men lust.

From the Christian perspective, from the view from heaven, from God's viewpoint.... These kinds of trials can I have a total different reality and can be understood from a total different perspective. There are times in our life when God specifically designed a trauma difficulty to make us men and women of God.

God never does anything without purpose. And if it comes to your life the trials and difficulties or purpose by God for a reason. They have design. They're part of the plan. This is what we see in the life of a man who experienced some of the most horrific trials anyone could ever experience in this life.

He was the subject of a cosmic battle between God and Satan. Satan was convinced that this man only serve God and was faithful to God because of all that God had given him. Satan believed that if all of

this was taken away but this man would fall and forsake the God he claimed to love.

So in God's divine wisdom, He purposed and ordained that Satan could be released to wreak all kinds of havoc and destruction and death in this man's life. Very few examples in history come close to the horror of what this man experienced. Not only is he affected by the fallen world of sinners but he is the direct target of the devil who has been given permission by God to destroy everything except his life.

Job 1:1–2:10 (NKJV)

1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. ² And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³ Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.....

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and

Satan also came among them. ⁷ And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?”

So Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

⁸ Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”

⁹ So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

¹² And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*.”

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house; ¹⁴ and a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans

raided *them* and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

¹⁶ While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

¹⁷ While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

¹⁸ While he *was* still speaking, another also came and said, “Your sons and daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, ¹⁹ and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!”

When you think you have had a bad day.....
remember this passage.

²⁰ Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

²¹ And he said:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
And naked shall I return there.
The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;
Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

²² In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

2 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. ² And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?”

Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

³ Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.”

⁴ So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.

⁵ But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

⁶ And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare his life.”

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.

⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”

¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 13:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him....

Lesson:

1. The Attitude in Trials
2. The Advantage of Trials
3. The Acquiesce to Trials
4. The Assistance with Trials

1. The Attitude in Trials

The Right Attitude in the midst of Trials

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you
fall into various trials,

James 1:2 (NASB95)

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

James 1:2 (ESV)

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

poikilos: many colored

Original Word: ποικίλος, η, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: poikilos

Phonetic Spelling: (poy-kee'-los)

Definition: many colored

Usage: various, of different colors, diverse, various.

4164 poikílos – properly, of various kinds, diversified ("manifold").

[This is the same meaning 4164 (poikílos) has in Pindar, Josephus, Philo, etc. cf. BAGD.]

peirasmos: an experiment, a trial, temptation

Original Word: πειρασμός, οὐ, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: peirasmos

Phonetic Spelling: (pi-ras-mos')

Usage: (a) trial, probation, testing, being tried, (b) temptation, (c) calamity, affliction.

1. The Attitude in Trials

2. The Advantage of Trials

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

James 1:3 (NASB95)

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

James 1:2–3 (ESV)

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

Hebrews 12:1–3 (NKJV)

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

In his commentary on James, Warren Wiersbe writes, “Our values determine our evaluations. If we value comfort more than character, then trials will upset us. If we value the material and physical more than the spiritual, we will not be able to ‘count it all joy!’ If we live only for the present and forget the future, the trials will make us bitter, not better” (*The Bible Exposition Commentary* [Wheaton, Ill.: Victor, 1989], 2:338).

If a Christian cannot rejoice in his trials, his values are not godly and biblical.

1. The Attitude in Trials

2. The Advantage of Trials

3. The Acquiesce to Trials

4 But let patience **have** *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

echó: to have, hold

Original Word: ἔχων. Pres Act. Imperative.

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: echó

Phonetic Spelling: (ekh'-o)

Definition: to have, hold

Usage: I have, hold, possess.

This is not the idea of letting God do something, or giving Him permission to do something as if He needs your permission to do anything. Or even “letting go and Letting God” like a blind trust in God, but rather it is a willingness not to resist it, fight it, despise it, regret it, or complain and gripe about it.

It is a willing submission to the perfect plan of God for your life. It is a willingness to submit to the fact

that God knows more and better understands what is best for your life.

This can only happen if you understand the life you live is ordered by the Lord. That the trials and troubles of life are ordained of God. No trial, difficulties, death or disease is outside the purpose of God for your life.

The need for endurance in the midst of trials is not just for the sake of making it thru the trouble. It is not bearing under the pain long enough the it goes away. It is not suffering for the sake of suffering.

4 But let patience have *its perfect work,*

τέλειος, α, ον (Hom. [e.g. Il. 24, 34 of unblemished sacrificial animals] +) gener. ‘attaining an end or purpose, complete’.

① **pert. to meeting the highest standard**

of persons who are fully up to standard in a certain respect and not satisfied with half-way measures
perfect, complete, expert

② **pert. to being mature, *full-grown, mature, adult***

Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). In [A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature](#) (3rd ed., p. 995). University of Chicago Press.

4 But let patience **have** *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Two words describe the goal: **mature and complete**. “Mature” (*teleioi*), often translated “perfect” or “finished,” is coupled with “complete” (*holoklēroi*, from *holos*, “whole,” and *klēros*, “part”) to give the idea of perfected all over or fully developed in every part.

Blue, J. R. (1985). [James](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 821). Victor Books.

lacking nothing.

original Word: μηδείς, μηδεμία, μηθέν

3367 mēdeís (from [3361](#) /mē, "not a possibility" and [1520](#) /heís, "one") – properly, "no one, nothing" – literally, "not even one."

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, These trials have an eternal purpose and we must maintain that perspective.

2 Corinthians 4:7–12 (NKJV)

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. ⁸ *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So then death is working in us, but life in you.

2 Corinthians 4:15–18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is

being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

1. The Attitude in Trials
2. The Advantage of Trials
3. The Acquiesce to Trials

4. The Assistance with Trials

Did you know that Assistance is available to you free of charge to learn how to manage and make it thru you trials. Did you know that there is a How To Book written on this very subject and that it was delivered to us via the supernatural.

It has been given to us by God. We have all that we need.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

This is not a new section, or to weaned off for any reason whatsoever. This statement is directly tied to the context of trials. In other words, we are going to have trials, so you will need wisdom.

This is not human wisdom, not human philosophy or human insight. Not earthy, temporal.

Human wisdom does not have the ability to explain and enable the believer to endure the trial.

We have seen the church and a mass of believers seek the wisdom of the world to cope.

It is packaged in the schools of Psychology and Psychiatry. These schools of thought are antithetical to Christianity. They are the polar opposite of Biblical Wisdom.

Psychology believes you are a product of millions of years of evolution

The Bible says you are created by God

Psychology says you are product of your environment

The Bible says you are born a sinner and law breaker and have every seed of potential evil in you and you are the cause of the destruction of the society.

Psychology says you are basically good

The Bible says you are evil

Psychology says you have disorders and diseases

The Bible says you have fallenness and sin.

Psychology says you make mistakes,

The Bible says you violate the Law and sin.

Psychology says the to spank you children will train the them to hit others.

The Bible says

Proverbs 22:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Foolishness *is* bound up in the heart of a child;

The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ You shall beat him with a rod,

And deliver his soul from hell.

Yet the vast majority of Christians, when seeking wisdom of how to handle the trials of life or how to cope with the difficulties they are dealt turn to the world for wisdom and not God.

And because we really don't believe in the Sufficiency of the Bible and the Holy Spirit we will even turn to a Christian Psychology. Which is Atheist Charles Darwin and Atheist Sigmund Freud sprinkled with Bible verses.

It's like Grape Nuts cereal. It's neither grapes nor nuts.

[John MacArthur, THE PSYCHOLOGY EPIDEMIC AND ITS CURE](#)

The stampede to embrace the doctrines of secular psychology may be the most serious threat to the life of the church today. These doctrines are a mass of human ideas that Satan has placed in the church as though they were powerful life-changing truths from God. Most psychologists epitomize neo-gnosticism, claiming to have secret knowledge for solving people's real problems. Some of them even claim to perform a therapeutic technique they call "Christian counseling" when, in reality, they are using secular theory with biblical references tacked on to treat spiritual problems. - [John MacArthur, THE PSYCHOLOGY EPIDEMIC AND ITS CURE](#)

HOW SCIENTIFIC ARE THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES?

Psychology is not a uniform body of scientific knowledge, like thermodynamics or organic chemistry. It rather refers to a complex menagerie of

ideas and theories, many of which are contradictory. Psychology has not proven itself capable of dealing effectively with the human mind and with mental and emotional processes. **Thus it can hardly be regarded as a science.** Many will object to classifying psychology as a pseudo-science, but that is exactly what it is -- the most recent of several human inventions designed to explain, diagnose, and treat behavioral problems without dealing with moral and spiritual issues. Little more than a century ago, the debate was over a different kind of "behavioral science" called phrenology. Phrenology held that personality characteristics were determined by the shape of someone's skull. The phrenologists' diagrams were maps of the head with specific areas labeled, showing which zone of the brain determined a particular emotion or characteristic. A phrenologist would feel people's skulls, diagnosing their problems by the location of bumps on their heads. **If you think behavioral science has advanced greatly since then, ask yourself how reasonable it is to surround an adult in the fetal position with pillows so he can get back in touch with his prenatal anxieties.** Given the choice, someone poking around on one's head sounds preferable. **Modern psychologists**

use hundreds of counseling models and techniques based on a myriad of conflicting theories, so it is impossible to speak of psychotherapy as though it were a unified and consistent science. - [John MacArthur, *THE PSYCHOLOGY EPIDEMIC AND ITS CURE*](#)

Listen to what the Bible says about the Wisdom of the World.

1 Corinthians 3:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.²⁰ and again, “*The Lord* knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

James 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic.

The Reason the wisdom of the world is demonic is given in

Romans 1:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile

in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,

"Christian psychology" as the expression is used today is an oxymoron. The word *psychology* no longer speaks of studying the soul. Instead it describes a diverse menagerie of therapies and theories that are **fundamentally humanistic**. The presuppositions and most of the doctrine of psychology cannot be successfully integrated with Christian truth. In addition, the infusion of psychology into the teaching of the church has blurred the line between behavior modification and sanctification. **The path to wholeness is the path of spiritual sanctification. It is foolish to exchange the Wonderful Counselor, the spring of living water, for the sensual wisdom of earth and the stagnant water of behaviorism**

True psychology (i.e. "the study of the soul") can be done only by Christians, since only Christians have the resources for understanding and transforming the soul. The secular discipline of psychology is based on godless assumptions and evolutionary foundations and is capable of dealing with people only superficially and only on the temporal level. [Footnote: Cf. the comments of a psychological counselor cited in [Bobgan](#),

[*PsychoHeresy*](#) 5-6.: "At the present time there is no acceptable Christian psychology that is markedly different from non-Christian psychology. It is difficult to imply that we function in a manner that is fundamentally distinct from our non-Christian colleagues."]. **The Puritans, long before the arrival of godless psychology, identified their ministry with people as "soul work."** Scripture is the manual for all "soul work" and is so comprehensive in the diagnosis and treatment of every spiritual matter that, energized by the Holy Spirit in the believer, it leads to making one like Jesus Christ. This is the process of biblical sanctification. - [John MacArthur, *THE PSYCHOLOGY EPIDEMIC AND ITS CURE*](#). (This essay is adapted from Chapter 3 of John F. MacArthur, Jr., *Our Sufficiency in Christ* [Waco, TX: Word, 1991] 55-77).

What does Biblical Wisdom teach us.

Colossians 3:2 (NKJV)

² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Proverbs 3:5–24 (NKJV)

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

- 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the Lord and depart from evil.
- 8 It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones.
- 9 Honor the Lord with your possessions,
And with the firstfruits of all your increase;
- 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty,
And your vats will overflow with new wine.
- 11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
Nor detest His correction;
- 12 For whom the Lord loves He corrects,
Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights.
- 13 Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom,
And the man *who* gains understanding;
- 14 For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of
silver,
And her gain than fine gold.
- 15 She *is* more precious than rubies,
And all the things you may desire cannot compare
with her.
- 16 Length of days *is* in her right hand,
In her left hand riches and honor.
- 17 Her ways *are* ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths *are* peace.
- 18 She *is* a tree of life to those who take hold of her,
And happy *are all* who retain her.

- 19 The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;
By understanding He established the heavens;
20 By His knowledge the depths were broken up,
And clouds drop down the dew.
- 21 My son, let them not depart from your eyes—
Keep sound wisdom and discretion;
22 So they will be life to your soul
And grace to your neck.
- 23 Then you will walk safely in your way,
And your foot will not stumble.
- 24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.

Job 28:1–3 (NKJV)

- 28** “Surely there is a mine for silver,
And a place *where* gold is refined.
- 2 Iron is taken from the earth,
And copper *is* smelted *from* ore.
- 3 *Man* puts an end to darkness,
And searches every recess
For ore in the darkness and the shadow of death.

Job 28:12–28 (NKJV)

- 12 “But where can wisdom be found?
And where *is* the place of understanding?

- 13 Man does not know its value,
Nor is it found in the land of the living.
- 14 The deep says, '*It is not in me*';
And the sea says, '*It is not with me.*'
- 15 It cannot be purchased for gold,
Nor can silver be weighed *for* its price.
- 16 It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir,
In precious onyx or sapphire.
- 17 Neither gold nor crystal can equal it,
Nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold.
- 18 No mention shall be made of coral or quartz,
For the price of wisdom *is* above rubies.
- 19 The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it,
Nor can it be valued in pure gold.
- 20 "From where then does wisdom come?
And where *is* the place of understanding?
- 21 It is hidden from the eyes of all living,
And concealed from the birds of the air.
- 22 Destruction and Death say,
'We have heard a report about it with our ears.'
- 23 God understands its way,
And He knows its place.
-
- 27 Then He saw *wisdom* and declared it;
He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.
- 28 And to man He said,

‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom,
And to depart from evil *is* understanding.’ ”

Example of mans wisdom vs. God’s wisdom

Matthew 16:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”

²³ But He turned and said to Peter, “**Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.**”

Wisdom to the Jew was the life saturated with God. It was the application of the law and Word of God.

It is that which affected the daily attitudes and responses to life.

James 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,

if— 1st class conditional, assumed to be true.

If you lack wisdom and you do.

or since you lack wisdom.....

let him ask— Pres. Act Imperative.

It is a command to ask

v.3. Count it all joy —a command

v. 4 Let endurance have its perfect work —
command

So trials are designed by God to drive us into His presence to ask for wisdom.

NOTE

Nothing in this text commands us or even hints at asking for deliverance from the trial, but rather wisdom on how to endure the trial.

We don't think like that, do we?

The first thing we think of is how to get out of the mess, not how to go thru it in a way that honors God.

The priority of the prayer for wisdom, is not
Lord, heal me, but Lord make me holy
not, Lord, deliver me... but help me delight in you.
not, Lord save me, but sanctify me.

not, Lord remove me from the trial, but restore to me the Joy of my salvation.

not, Lord please cause it to stop but please set me apart.

It is not to say we can't pray for those things. It is any specially stated in James 5 to call the elders of the church together to pray for the sick.

But the focus should not be deliverance from the trial but having the right attitude and perspective that brings honor and glory to the Holiness of God.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

of God, who gives to all liberally

παρὰ τοῦ διδόντος θεοῦ πᾶσιν ἀπλῶς

ask concerning the giving God

διδόντος—P.act Part

Matthew 7:7–11 (NKJV)

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. **9** Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? **10** Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? **11** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

This is not an unqualified open ended willingness of God to give wisdom with no stipulations or requirements. We know that because the next few verses indicate to us and even the rest of the book of James tells us that God expects certain things of us in order for him to answer and you give wisdom to us.

James 1:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

James 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

If you are in the midst of your trial and you are complaining and whining and have a bad attitude and are unwilling to be submissive to God for the purpose

of this trial you can expect the guys going to answer you and give you the wisdom to make it through it.

But for those who do confess and repent of their sin they have open the door for the generosity of God to pour into their lives the wisdom that they need to go through the trial and to honor God in it.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

He will get liberally with Great generosity and also without reproach. That is a very interesting statement it states that God is already giving God and that he promises to give generously but then it says that he will not give with reproach. What does he mean?

oneidizó: to reproach

Original Word: ὀνειδίζω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: oneidizó

Phonetic Spelling: (on-i-did'-zo)

Definition: to reproach

Usage: I reproach, revile, upbraid.

3679 oneidízō (from a primitive root meaning "to upbraid, revile, like in showing one's teeth," K. Wuest) – properly, to disgrace (insult), reproach; mock (curse); insult, cast blame (create shame) – viewing someone (something) as culpably guilty and therefore deserving punishment. This can be based on fact (Mt 11:20), or incorrect assumptions (Mt 5:11).

① **to find fault in a way that demeans the other, *reproach, revile, mock, heap insults upon* as a way of shaming**

Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). In [A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature](#) (3rd ed., p. 710). University of Chicago Press.

Mark 16:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

Proverbs 27:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ My son, be wise, and make my heart glad,

That I may answer him who reproaches me. **to annoy or taunt.**

The idea is that God will get to us generously without mocking us because we should have known how to handle the trial or to The idea is that God will get to us generously without mocking us because we should have known how to handle the trial or to shame us in anyway in anyway

Reproach translates a participial form of a verb that means “to upbraid, to severely reprimand.” In Matthew 5:11 it is rendered “cast insults,” or “revile” (kjv). The term is used in Matthew 11:20 of the Lord’s reproach of the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida, of whom He said, “It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you” (v. 22); and of Capernaum, who, He warned, “will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day” (v. 23).

But the Lord will never cast even the mildest **reproach** on a child of His who comes seeking wisdom in time of trouble and testing. He will not remind us of how undeserving and unworthy we are, obvious as that might be. Nor will He chide us for not asking sooner, fully understanding that “the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Mark 14:38). Without

hesitation, reluctance, or reservation, His divine wisdom **will be given to** us in generous abundance. He will say to us, in effect, what He said to His people Israel through the psalmist, “I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide and I will fill it” (Ps. 81:10).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1998). [James](#) (p. 37). Moody Press.

Throughout history, church architecture has been intended to make theological statements, to provide a proper atmosphere for worship, and to teach worshipers important lessons about their faith. The best-known examples of this are medieval cathedrals, with their stained-glass windows and statuary that were seen as “books” for the illiterate. In fact, nearly everything about the cathedrals was thick with multiple layers of meaning which are rarely understood or appreciated today.

During the sixteenth century, Reformed Protestants rejected the Roman Catholic tradition of church decoration. Ulrich Zwingli, for example, had the

statues, stained glass windows, and organs moved out of the churches and the walls whitewashed. The reason was a new theology of worship: Roman Catholic worship was a multi-sensory, liturgical drama; in Protestantism in general and the Reformed tradition in particular, worship was centered on the preached word, and for Zwingli, anything that might distract from that had to be ruthlessly eliminated. Art and musical instruments could be a distraction, so they had to go.

The English Puritans took the rejection of art and artifice to new heights, developing an approach to preaching that emphasized "plain and simple" exposition of Scripture with few rhetorical flourishes. This carried over into their architecture in their churches in the New World. Some of those churches still stand with their interior design largely intact.

My church, the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, Connecticut, was "gathered" in 1635. The congregation worships in the 1761 "Meeting House." Although it had been updated to a

Victorian worship space, in 1961 it was restored to its original appearance, with plain glass, whitewashed walls, and very little decoration, in keeping with the Puritan vision of wanting “plain and simple” exposition of Scripture in a setting devoid of distractions. The original pulpit was even found and returned to its place in the meeting house.

The pulpit is on the north wall of the meeting house. You enter it from a stair to the left of the pulpit, and you preach beneath a sounding board suspended from the ceiling. The location of the pulpit is mostly a consequence of acoustics. Medieval cathedrals, for example, often had pulpits above the nave of the churches to allow more people to see and hear the preacher. The Meeting House was designed with the same thing in mind, to allow the preacher to be heard by all without amplification.

Although the Meeting House has only limited decorations, the pulpit itself has a few visual features that are worth noticing. In the center is a

raised lectern with a large open Bible on it. To the left as you face the pulpit a candle sits on the pulpit box, and to the right an hourglass. Although people frequently think these have mundane uses, for things like light to read the Bible and for timing the sermon (as if a Puritan preacher would care!), the reality is something far more serious and profound.

To the eighteenth-century mind, the hourglass and the candle were both *memento mori*, reminders of the shortness of life. Candles burn down and out; the sands run through the hourglass; our time in this world likewise is short

We today do our best to avoid thinking about our own mortality and to insulate ourselves from death. People who lived in the early modern era (roughly 1500-1800) did not have that luxury. Indeed, death was an everyday event for them. Infant mortality rates were high, and disease regularly killed people of all ages. People died at home and were prepared for burial by their own family members. Some colonial houses even had a coffin door in the

kitchen to allow the bodies of deceased family members to be moved in and out more conveniently.

Perhaps because of the closeness of death, early modern Europeans were vitally concerned with how they spent their lives, and so memento mori were common. For example, many still life paintings include skulls, decaying fruit, extinguished candles, watches, All were intended to remind the viewer of the passing of time and the transiency of life.

But between the candle and the hourglass on the pulpit lies the Bible, and behind that stands the preacher. Even as they were reminded of their mortality, the written and preached word was to be a source of comfort and instruction for them they proclaimed the hope of eternal life. But the layout of the pulpit was also a warning: death will come for each of them, and how they spent eternity would depend on what they did with the Bible and how well they listened to and applied what they hear in the sermon.

The memento mori also served as a warning to the pastor to be careful what he preached, since the eternal souls of his congregants could well depend on his words. Time was running short for everyone; there was none left for entertainment or fluff. Rather, the pastor was to preach with passion and all seriousness the full council of God, holding nothing back. Only by so doing could he discharge his duties and hope to receive God's commendation.

The Puritan pulpit was thus a visible expression of Moses' prayer in Ps. 90:12: "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom," a warning to the congregation and the pastor alike of the importance of our days as preparation for **eternity**. Glenn Sunshine. <https://www.breakpoint.org/the-puritan-pulpit-and-the-christian-view-of-life/>

So it is with the wisdom given to us by God. It will enable us to focus on eternity and not the here and now. It will enable us to look at our trials thru the lens of the eternal purpose of God.