

James 1:5-8  
"Praying for Wisdom"\*

**Introduction:** *Some Grand Displays of Faith*

- **Some of the grand displays of faith in Scripture:** should make us want to cry out with the apostles and say, "Lord, increase our faith."
  - **James, the half-brother of the Lord Jesus Christ:** has a lot to say about prayer in this great, practical letter.
1. **We must recognize** that God \_\_\_\_\_  
to ask Him for \_\_\_\_\_.
- **The verbal link between the previous verses and verse 5:** found in the root word "lack"
  - **Wisdom:** might be thought of as the right use of right knowledge towards the right end of glorifying God.
  - **The part of wisdom for us:** to trust God when we can't track what He is up to.
  - **God's wisdom:** just as infinite as all of the rest of His perfections.
  - **A grand display of wisdom:** found in the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ

- **Some so-called "wisdom":** is earthly instead of heavenly, carnal instead of spiritual, and demonic instead of being divine.
  - **God's "undivided purpose":** to give wisdom to His people who ask Him for it
2. **We must recognize** our need \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ hearts.
- **The one who "disputes with himself":** has a serious discrepancy between what he says and what he believes deep down in his heart.
  - **A reminder from James:** God not only hears the words of our prayers, He also sees the heart attitude behind the prayers.
  - **Charles Spurgeon:** "Faith fosters every other virtue, but unbelief tends to murder those other virtues."
  - **When we really plead the promises of God in prayer:** we can thank God in advance that He will keep His promises.
  - **Personal Application:**

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