



Some Benefits of Trials and Tests

James 1:1-8

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him (James 1:5—KJV).

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him (James 1:5—NASB).

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you (James 1:5—NRSV).

When we face various trials and tests that sometimes involve great suffering and an uncertain future, we need wisdom to endure, to know how to pray, and to know what to do. The Bible promises that if we have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and do not doubt God's love and generosity that God will give us all the wisdom we need. We just too often forget to ask! For these and other reasons, Christians can consider it nothing but joy when they face trials of any kind. Their trials can draw them closer to God as God inspires them to be more fervent in prayer. As they search the Scriptures, they discover promises from God that take on new meaning as the Holy Spirit gives them understanding. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit will give them gifts of love, joy, peace, and patience to endure and mature in ways they never knew possible. As with all trials, trials can serve as tests of faith. As we take these tests, they can show us what we need to study in order to endure with spiritual understanding the trials and sufferings that will inevitably come our way as long as we live in this world as it is. As we are tried and tested, the more we can learn to trust in Jesus and His words, the more we will grow into maturity as Christians. The Bible warns us that trials may lead us to doubt God and the Bible's teachings, but as we pray for divine wisdom, we will not become double-minded and unstable in all our ways.

Thinking Further

1. Who was James and who were the twelve tribes of the Dispersion?
2. How should a Christian respond when they face any kind of trial?
3. Why should the Christian respond to their trials in this way?
4. What is the ultimate purpose of our trials according to these verses?
5. What will God ungrudgingly give Christians when they ask Him? Why should Christians ask for this?