

Last week, we talked about the opening of the book of James and the concept of walking through trials with joy. It seems that as soon as we set on a path to draw closer to God and seek Him in all that we do, the trials arise. As Christians, we should not be caught off guard by this and should expect trials to come. Read: 1 Peter 1:6-7

The goal within these trials is to remain steadfast, grounded in God's love and in His truth. As we keep reading in James we find another key to walking through trials. Read: James 1:5-8

James says that we need wisdom, and that if we ask in faith, God will give it to us. Can we count on God to give us the wisdom that we need when things are difficult? Will He really equip us to answer hard questions and face the tests and challenges that come our way without fear? To find out more about God's generosity as it relates to wisdom, let's travel back to 1 Kings and meet David's son, Solomon.

Solomon was young, he had just become king of Israel, and had big sandals to fill. He was following his father, King David, and felt quite unequipped to rule over multitudes of people. Because Solomon loved God and knew that he could trust Him for all things, he asked for wisdom. Read: 1 Kings 3:6-12

God's response to Solomon? He is so pleased with Solomon's humility to ask, that God gives him wisdom in abundance! The Bible says that people came from far and near to hear Solomon's wisdom. He wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. I cannot imagine such an outpouring of wisdom, but it must have been astonishing. Read: 1 Kings 4:29-34

Solomon had the desire to walk with the Lord and make decisions that were upright and just. He recognized that he could not rule a country in his own strength. We are all more like Solomon than we may realize. We want to walk humbly before God and discern right from wrong, but we cannot do it in our own strength or in our own knowledge. We must ask for God for His wisdom! Read Proverbs 2:1-8

Wisdom is part of the joy equation. To count every trial as joy, we persevere, resting in God's steadfast love, asking Him for wisdom to manage each circumstance moment by moment. As God refines us, He is creating a testimony of His faithfulness in us. In his commentary on the book of James, J. A. Motyer writes, "There is no trial, no great calamity or small pressure, no overwhelming sorrow or small run of life outside that plan of God, whereby it is a stepping stone to glory." Trust God's plan, seek His wisdom, and rest in His steadfast love!

**If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.**

**James 1:5-6**

