

Attitude #3 - Submissive

**Matthew 5:5 - Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
I give my will and my life to Jesus Christ.**

Submit - to accept somebody else's authority or will; to defer to another's knowledge, judgment, or experience. Surrender, give in, yield, and agree to.

The opposite: to resist

This bible principle like all other bible principles is contrary to the condition and position of the natural man. We do not like, nor do we desire to be submissive regarding our flesh. When a person has a relationship with God through the finished work of the cross of Jesus Christ, they have all the power within them to submit to the will of God. However, it would be pretentious to think that any person that has recently entered that relationship or has been in that relationship for a length of time has full knowledge of how to live out the power to submit to the will of God. It is like other things in life, we learn how to do what we do. In this case, we learn how to live as we are, followers of Jesus Christ.

If you are truly born again and you continue to find yourself frustrated being pulled back and forth from your new life in Christ to your more familiar behaviors of the "old life" before Christ, there are often very practical and most importantly, biblical reasons for it. For us to live a practical, consistent, and fulfilling Christian life we must be "single focused." We must be focused on our surrender to the will of God. The Apostle James gives us valuable insight concerning our spiritual needs and how to acquire them. As we learn of what may be lacking in our lives and his description of what we look like when we are lacking in this area, our goal will be to shore up this area of our lives in order to experience a more healthy relationship with our Lord and more victory in our lives.

James 1:5-8 - 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. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

We would do well to consider the context in which these verses are found. In verses 2-4 James writes concerning our response to the trials of life and how we might better manage them when they come our way. We would all agree that it is only by the help of God that would enable us to "count it all joy when we are facing various trials." But we might also note that it is not counting it all joy that he says only, but also in verse 5 James speaks of the privilege to pray.

1. Vs. 5 - An open invitation. If any of you lack (to be destitute, to be wanting) wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men *liberally* (openly, sincerely, generously), and *upbraideth* (reproach) not; and it shall be given him.

While we are praying for the removing of the trial, we ought also to pray for the wisdom to make right use of it; to be wise in trying times, we see, is a special gift from God. It is amazing to see all the invitations in the Bible regarding our needs and how God invites us to ask Him in order that they might be met. One of the greatest needs that each of us has is the need for wisdom. According to this verse, if we lack wisdom, it will be our fault, not God's fault.

No man will ask for wisdom until he knows how ignorant he really is.

Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 2:6,7 - For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. 7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a *buckler* (shield, defense) to them that walk uprightly.

Proverbs 2:10,11 - When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; 11 *Discretion* (good judgment) shall preserve thee, understanding shall *keep* (guard) thee:

Knowledge - general awareness or possession of information, facts, ideas, truths, or principles.

Wisdom - the ability to make sensible decisions and judgments based on personal knowledge and experience; the ability to correctly apply knowledge.

Discernment - the power to rightly interpret what we see and hear.

If I am asking for wisdom and not applying my heart to knowledge, then I am only doing one of the things that God invites me to do and not the thing God expects me to do.

Proverbs 23:12 - *Apply* (make use of something) thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

So then, there is the awareness of our need (wisdom) and the awareness of our invitation to ask God....the rest is up to us. Our personal history reveals our need for wisdom now and in the future.

- But we also need to consider God's response regarding not just to what He does, but how He does it.... **"that giveth to all men *liberally (openly, sincerely, generously), and upbraideth (reproach) not*".**

God doesn't just give us small portions when we have a great need of wisdom and He will also not rebuke us for asking, but the foolish will die in his foolishness if wisdom is available and he will not pray to God for it.

2. Vs. 6,7 - An important condition. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering (doubting). For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Wisdom will be given to those that ask God for it provided they believe that He is able to give it.

Matthew 9:27-29 - And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, *Believe ye that I am able to do this?* They said unto him, Yea, Lord.29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith starts with God, saving faith.

Real faith begins by responding to the faith that God has given, saving faith. It continues as it is fed by the knowledge of the word of God; we cannot believe what we do not know. As we grow in our faith our faith is increased, and we will have less days of being tossed to a fro and more days of not being tossed at all. When we are shaken in our faith as a result of our spiritual ignorance, we are more inclined to revert to what we do know because of our neglect to learn what we should know.

3. Vs. 8 - An honest description. A double minded (wavering, indecisive) man is unstable (unpredictable, restless) in all his ways.

Being double minded will always be to our disadvantage and never to our advantage. When we are double minded, we tend to hold on to that which is bad while missing that which is good. There is the uneasiness of the soul that cries out on the inside that something is not right while we attempt to appear on the outside like everything is. God will not let the saved man live a double minded life in comfort and ease. This man, while he thinks that he fools everyone else, only fools himself and sets himself up for instability.

We need wisdom to apply knowledge to do the will of God.

We need discernment to identify the will of God.

We need faith to trust God to help us submit to His will.