James #21

God give YOUR servant understanding.

Open back up in our anchor study of James chapter one RF.

Jam 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

[Jas 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/2/s_1147002) Consider it all joy, my brothers *and sisters,* when you encounter various trials,

Testing and adversity as well as attacks from the fallen angels, are all part of not only spiritual warfare, they are baked into the plan of GOD for our growth.

Jas 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

This I have highlighted several times and it is very important as a building block, style of teaching.

It falls under the category of the right thing done in the right way. Also building up capacity for blessings and maturity.

There are numerous scriptures teaching Christians that they have to go through tests, steps and endurance inside the plan of GOD.

It all leads to greater faith and spiritual growth, which means blessings, crowns and rewards.

[Jas 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/4/s_1147004) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

This speaks to higher levels of SM – become the fullness of Christ.

/[Jas 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/5/s_1147005) 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.\

[Jas 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/6/s_1147006) But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

[Jas 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/7/s_1147007) For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

This is a very troubling scripture for many liberal Christians and certainly those Bels living for self.

Because it aligns with many teachings in both the OT and the NT - about becoming responsible for your spiritual growth.

[Jas 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/8/s_1147008) *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

/Mat 7:7 “**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 the one who **seeks finds**, and to the **one who knocks it will be opened**.\

This is directed at Bels – you can never knock and find salvation with your own effort – this is specifically about spiritual grow after salvation.

These actions the LORD is calling us into fall upon our own positive decisions, our own free will.

/These are all written in the Greek present tense, with the active voice pointing to the Bel’s responsibility;

Ask – *aiteō,* a strong craving and consistent drive toward something.

Seeks – *zēteō,* to strive, consistent seeking and to demand.

Knocks – *krouō,* to forcefully pound and repeat knocking upon a door.\

I-TAY-O, this speaks to a strong desire and consistent drive to achieve something. It is sometimes used for the term begging and pleading.

ZAY-TAY-O, is a very solid verb, for seeking or demanding for something, it points to a strong forward motion.

KREW-OH, is used for a pounding with force upon a door.

 REPEAT

Jump backward into the OT – 1Kings chapter three RF.

Let us look at young King Solomon who was probably 20 years old when he took over the throne from his father, David.

At this historic point young Solomon is very dedicated to the God of Israel. Yet he has just married his second wife probably for political reasons – she was an Egyptian princess.

This was a trend going forward for Solomon and it appears God overlooked this weakness for many years, until it brought forth great damage to the nation of Israel.

Those who claim GOD is filled with wrath and the OT shows God as an angry Father, have no idea of the history behind many of the times God brought discipline upon people.

God has always been very merciful and longsuffering.

Young Solomon had been seeking and praying to God – he had preformed a thousand burnt offerings to Yahweh.

Let us look at the first prayer as King of Isreal that Solomon had;

1Kin 3:6 Then Solomon said, “You have shown great faithfulness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great faithfulness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day.

/[1Ki 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/3/7/s_294007) “And now, LORD my God, **You have made Your servant king in place of my father David**, yet I am *like* a little boy; I do not know how to go out or come in.

Solomon like his father David, was very teachable, because he was humble and had serious relationship with GOD.\

He gives the glory over to God, he recognizes the power and plan of God – more importantly he knows his own limits.

Often times when a Bel has a victory or even a period of blessing and comfort, they can fall back into fleshly pride. Or even slip away from their relationship with God.

 REPEAT

This fate would fall upon Solomon later in his life.

[1Ki 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/3/8/s_294008) “And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted.

/[1Ki 3:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/3/9/s_294009) “So **give Your servant an understanding heart to judge** Your people, to **discern**between good and evil. For who is capable of judging this great people of Yours?”

Of all things Solomon could have prayer for and asked for – it was to be a wise and righteous leader for the LORD.\

This is exactly what a good prayer life looks like.

It aligns with the plan of GOD.

Most Christians pray for things that will push them away from GOD. They pray for situations or blessings that do not align with God’s will.

/1Kin 3:9 - he asks in prayer for a wise soul that can judge and discern for GOD.

To judge - *šāp̄aṭ,* to be a discriminating governor, a leader with firm balance.

To discern – *bîn,* higher intellect, greater insight or understanding.\

SHA-FAT, this is righteous judgment, a godly governor. This Hebrew verb is in the Qal stem and it points to a governor or judge who operates from righteousness.

BEAN, is in the Hiphil stem pointing to deeper understanding which is asking for a higher intellect which brings forth discernment.

/Solomon’s true desire was to serve the plan of God. He wanted to serve the people of God; this was his sincere prayer. This aligned perfectly into God’s plan and God’s will. When a Believer is positive toward BD and their prayers align with God’s plan, this leads to a very powerful and interactive prayer life.\

These types of Bels have very successful prayer lives.

[1Ki 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/3/10/s_294010) Now it was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing.

/[1Ki 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/3/11/s_294011) And God said to him, “**Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for yourself a long life, nor have asked riches for yourself**, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but have **asked for yourself discernment to understand justice**,

As a Bel matures they begin to have a prayer life that reflects the nature of Christ.\

Solomon was praying for a life of serving God and serving others.

[1Ki 3:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/3/12/s_294012) behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.

Solomon is viewed as one of the wisest men in biblical history.

/[1Ki 3:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/3/13/s_294013) “**I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor**, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days.

God is glorified when HE can bless us. When a Bel reaches higher capacity of maturity, greater grace and blessings unfold, it is because the Bel has aligned themselves into the will and plan of God.\

God desires to bless HIS children… HE desires offering greater grace to all of us, yet HE can’t ignore HIS own justice.

[1Ki 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1ki/3/14/s_294014) “And if you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days.”

Notice that GOD added this in because Solomon understood BD. Solomon knew the essence and plan of GOD.

Solomon had many of his father David’s qualities. Yet as he reigned over the years he fell victim to his own lust patterns. If he kept moving forward in the plan of GOD more abundance would unfold in his life.

Solomon reigned over Israel for about 40 years – so this leads many to believe King Solomon died by age 60.

/One of the greatest pursuits, desires and prayers for a born-again Believer is to have Divine Wisdom. This can only occur, consistently, following down the narrow path of Bible doctrine filled by the Spirit. When the Christian crosses that divide from reliance upon human viewpoint, cosmic ideology, into a lifestyle of seeking and walking in truth (BD) they enter into a deeper realm of spirituality.\

The majority of Christians have prayers and desires that appease self and seek out the path of least resistance.

Solomon failed later in his life, yet he took on the responsibility of Israel and did not seek the easy life. He focused upon others and the plan of God.

/Psa 10:17 LORD, **You have heard the desire of the humble;** You will strengthen their heart, You will make Your ear attentive.

God will not penetrate the stubborn nature of a free will that is reliant on flesh and cosmic system strength.\

Humility can come natural over time, or it can be enforced through humiliation or personal pain.

Either way teachability comes from real humility.

/Psa 86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And **abundant in mercy to all who call upon You.**

When the Christian adjust to the justice of God, they wipe the failure and sin of yesterday away. They then can turn back into a relationship with GOD and grow.\

In fact, the only way to turn self-induced misery or personal failures into a blessing of testing and growth, is by having the humility you had a salvation.

You recognize you are sinner in need of a savior and you threw yourself on the grace of God.

/Psa 145:18 **The LORD is near to all** who **call on Him**, To all who **call on Him in truth.** 19 He will fulfill the desire of those **who fear Him**; He will also hear their cry for help and save them.

Notice the stipulation – the right thing done in the right way. TRUTH (BD) matters, respect for HIS authority matters.\

There is no wisdom outside of the mind of Christ – there is no pure, divine wisdom outside of BD.

There are only half-truths, counterfeits and lies. So, the only pathway into truth is the same pathway into heaven.

It is a basic formula, turn to the justice of God and accept the person and work of TLJC.

Every time you rebound and study the WORD of God you are filling yourself up with knowledge from Christ.

GOD HIMSELF is offering you spiritual wisdom if you learn and apply it properly!

/Jhn 10:30 “I and the Father **are one**.”

Jhn 14:6 Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life**; no one comes to the Father **except through** **Me.\**

/Col 1:15 **He is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of all creation: 16 for **by Him all things were created**, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—**all things have been created through Him and for Him**.\