

Faith that Works: Living Out of Your Beliefs

The Gift of Wisdom: Asking, Receiving and Living

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your generosity and grace.

We acknowledge that you are the source of all wisdom and understanding.

We come before you today, recognizing our need for your guidance in all things, especially when facing trials and difficult decisions.

We ask that you would generously impart your wisdom to us, illuminating our minds and hearts with your truth.

Help us to seek your wisdom above all else, and to trust in your perfect plan for our lives.

Help us to embrace the joy that comes from knowing that our faith is being tested and refined.

We trust that you are working all things for our good.

We confess our weaknesses and our susceptibility to temptation.

We ask for your Holy Spirit to empower us to resist the allure of sin.

Help us to be quick to listen to your voice, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

We pray for the strength to overcome temptation, and for the grace to walk in your ways.

Help us to live out your word with joy and with a steadfast faith.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do."-James 1:5-8

"Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created."-James 1:16-18

When I read this scripture, I think about my childhood because I used to take stuff without asking around the house. I always used to doubt myself without asking people and family for stuff first. When times go on, I learn how to take family advice to ask people and family for stuff. I learned how to ask people and family for stuff without asking. My mother and father never know if they will say yes or no. When I start asking people for stuff, I start praying to God before I ask people. I actually talk to the Holy Spirit and God daily on my needs in my life. When this happens, God always provides for me. When I pray to God in the kingdom, I am sincere during my prayers. I do not use God's wisdom because I do not use wisdom on earth from no sinners or go by temptation. I started to stop doubting myself. According to the Ten Commandments, it says do not steal. I want to let you know that I am no longer double-minded after I got saved and born again on September 4, 2011.

We need to start praying to God and the Holy Spirit for things before asking and receiving things. We need to avoid making decisions based on pride and leaning on our own understanding. I was always told this at Star of Hope Mission in Houston by many staff including Pastor John Johnson and Mr. Gray. As Christians and disciples, we need to seek God's wisdom during trials by praying for it with faith and without doubting. God is a generous giver of wisdom. We do not want to listen and get any possessions

from the world. God is your provider, not the world. As Christians and disciples, we must recognize the good things we have in our life. God will continue to provide and give you more along as you are faithful, obedient, trust and worthy to him daily. We need guard against lies that may tempt you to doubt God's goodness or to blame Him for negative circumstances. His love and faithfulness are reliable. God offers wisdom to guide you. Acknowledge God's gifts and provision with gratitude.

1. Ask God for things with faith in him and his kingdom.
2. Avoid doubt
3. Be consistent
4. We need to look at God first, not the world.
5. Trust God provision
6. Study scripture in the bible daily when you pray to his kingdom.

Earthly wisdom is self-interest and worldly desires. Heavenly wisdom is rooted in love, compassion, and a desire for good. Earthly wisdom is prioritizing personal gain over others' needs, seeking revenge rather than forgiveness, and being driven by envy or selfish ambition. Heavenly wisdom is manifested for acts of kindness, forgiveness, humility, and a desire for peace and reconciliation. Selfish ambition is a desire for power, recognition, or material possessions, often leading to competition and conflict. I used to have selfish ambitions a long time ago to make myself look powerful, but I do not do that any more. I used this in 2010-2020 when I became an independent to campaign negatively against the Democrats. I do not do stuff like that too much any more except for 2024 on reproductive rights and abortion issues. Resentment towards others' successes or possessions can be a sign of earthly wisdom. Earthly wisdom can lead to dishonesty, manipulation, and a lack of integrity in relationships. Earthly wisdom is a devil trait that can lead us to hell and follow the path of Lucifer. The pursuit of self-interest often results in a lack of peace and harmony in one's life and relationships. Heavenly wisdom is characterized by purity of heart, a desire for peace, and a gentle spirit. Heavenly wisdom involves treating everyone fairly and with sincerity. Heavenly wisdom is guided by a desire to align with God's will and purpose.

Heavenly wisdom is guided by a desire to align with God's will and purpose. Heavenly wisdom is helping people in need. When I am back living in Detroit, I will listen to this trait to start helping more people in need out of my own money like I did in the past in Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Detroit. Earthly wisdom people are takers and takers of the world. We need to start being honest with ourselves because it is part of heavenly wisdom. Heavenly wisdom is seeking reconciliation. Heavenly wisdom is being content with what you have. People that continue to get more possessions from the world through sin are earthly wisdom. This is what homeless men and women do at homeless shelters daily to depend on other people as extroverts in homeless shelters, not living their lives as homeless men and women with heavenly wisdom. My family members are all about earthly wisdom in Chicago because they are takers of the world. Tax collectors are people all about earthly wisdom. People, all about mammon are all about earthly wisdom. James is speaking to "the twelve tribes scattered abroad. James 1:5-8 focuses on the need for wisdom when facing trials. James 1:5-8 focuses on the need for wisdom when facing trials. James encouraged the tribes to ask God for wisdom when facing trials. James highlights the importance of faith in prayer. In James 1:16-18, he is urging the Christians to be aware of the goodness of God and not to be deceived. That is why we need to be aware of the sin in the world with temptation and idolatry.

What is wrong with the world and people today according to James 1:5-8 and James 1:16-18:

1. **Lack of wisdom and reliance on self:** I support what homeless shelters are doing with the time periods and Christ-centered programs. I say over and over again that homeless men and women lean on their own understanding. It is the path that Lucifer took after he got to heaven and was sent to hell. That's why I highly praise Star of Hope Mission in Houston about their Spiritual Recovery Program, Men-at-Work programs that are 30 and/or five month programs that have helped me spiritually and economically from spiritual and Christ-centered staff. Based on average it is about less than one percent of people that make it out of homeless shelters permanent and get out of homeless shelters faster because they are proactive and motivated to get their life back on their feet.
2. **Double-Mindedness:** I am going to tell you the same thing that was told to me at Star of Hope Mission in Houston while I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program. God put people in a situation for a reason. Pastor Johnson, known as one of the case managers, told me that God put me at Star of Hope Mission in Houston for a reason. Also, some clients at Star of Hope Mission in Houston told me the same thing that was spiritual as well as saying that God is trying to work for me. Wherever you are in your life right now is to let God work in you and take my advice about recruiting your own twelve disciples like Jesus did to practice your serving God and his kingdom. I have 57+ disciples in my inner circle for Houston, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Dallas and Brooklyn. I started with twelve and now 57+ disciples. I want to be told by clients and case managers at Star of Hope Mission in Houston to take my time and stop thinking too fast by letting God use me. I decided to settle myself in Detroit going forward, so God can use me on how he wants me to serve him on earth as a man of God and Bishop of this flock. I still communicate and keep in touch with my 57 disciples daily to keep my faith in God stronger in our inner circle.

You need to answer these questions to yourself daily to help strengthen your faith in God and the Holy Spirit forever under God's grace.

- Where do you typically turn when you need to make a decision?
- What does your answer to the previous question reveal about your priorities in life?
- During what seasons of life have you followed your own path rather than submitting to God's plan?
- During what seasons of life have you intentionally followed God's plan rather than your own desires?
- What outcomes did you experience in each of the previous seasons of life?

The first question to you should be really easy. The person you need to rely on to make a decision is God and his kingdom. You do not want to make decisions like a sinner and based on temptation. We need to avoid making decisions based on ungodliness and sending the message that you love the world and possessions in the world rather than loving God as your personal savior and rock of your salvation. When you take your christian walk to God and his kingdom, it is good to have vision from his kingdom to avoid pain in your life. Living in sin and idolatry do not need to be your top priority in your life. Living in bondage does not need to be a top priority in your life. Turn to the person next to you and say make serving God your top priority. for your homework tonight, I need you to answer these questions to

yourself. You can do it when you get home, before you go to bed tonight and go to sleep. When I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston, I actively attended Riceville Mount Olive Mount Olive Baptist Church in Houston in November 2023 after one month I completed the Spiritual Recovery Program in October 2023. This year will be the second year anniversary for completing the Spiritual Recovery Program for five months. You should get an easy A+ on these questions.

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”-James 3:17

1. **Focus on God:** after you take my advice from previous sermons to recruit your twelve disciples, your twelve disciples will help you keep your focus on God. My twelve disciples and myself do a live stream bible study three times a week because all my disciples do not live in Michigan. My 57 disciples pray together and pray for each other daily. My 57 disciples and myself serve God and the Holy Spirit. We are spiritual and active church goers involved in the congregation and/or another church in their community. First Lady Jennifer has her own disciples but she only has 21 disciples in her inner self that started out at twelve.
2. **Integrity:** My 57 disciples and myself are honest. The only thing I have to work on is stop going around the bush with the honest statement. I am honest but it used to take me around the bush to get that honest point that I try to make. We do not let no one judge us and our hearts because we let God judge our hearts and whatever we do in our as our personal savior and rock of our salvation. A Detroit christian woman told me in 2017 do not let no one judge my heart.
3. **Clean Heart:** my 57 disciples and myself are not selfish and have a cheerful giving heart. We enjoy serving the Lord in our communities and helping the poor. I like helping the poor and homelessness in Detroit and Flint by volunteering at homeless shelters. I enjoyed doing mandatory work therapy while I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston in 2023 when I worked in the kitchen serving clients in other programs in the facility, such as Spiritual Recovery Program, Men at Work and Rescue. My 57 disciples say they enjoy their volunteer work to help the poor and homelessness spiritually in their communities.
4. **Harmony:** I am not friends with people with mental health issues and have drama. My inner circle is drama free people and spiritual. My 57 disciples and myself are friends with most evangelists, pastors, churchgoing people and spiritual people that live only by the bible. We are not friends with people that are gossipers and negative people in our communities and where we go. That's why I cannot be at homeless shelters because it is not a christian environment except for homeless shelters like Star of Hope Mission in Houston that is a more Christ-centered organization. I have a friend that is a pastor in Philadelphia who says shelters are surrounded with a lot of people that rather live in bondage and all about idolatry.
5. **Peacemaking:** All my 57 disciples and myself are introverts because we usually have to get to know people to build a dialogue. I was told by a friend from Star of Hope Mission in Houston while I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program not let people take advantage of my kindness and use me. It is like my elementary school teachers used to say that people do not buy friends by buying and giving people stuff. That is 100% fact. I have not done that since high school when people used to ask me for stuff to use me to ask for paper and pencil when teachers wanted us to take note of something she wrote on the board.
6. **Kindness:** My 57 disciples help people out if we are able to. My 57 disciples and myself with our life with the fruit of the spirit daily. We have a lot of spiritual virtues.

7. **Humility:** we serve God with humility.
8. **Controlled power:** my 57 disciples and myself are spiritually disciplined today to serve God and the Holy Spirit. We only depend on God's wisdom and pray before we make decisions in our life. We are not tax collectors and live our life by mammon. We do not make any decision based on pride and let sinners that highly live in sin tell us what to do in our life. We let God guide us in our life.
9. **Open to counsel:** my 57 disciples and myself take advice from others on what to do in our life along as we keep God in the center of our decisions with prayer.