

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Obtaining Wisdom Amidst Trials

(Jerry Fite)

**W**hat should you do when a heavy burden overwhelms your heart? Facing a difficult, but unavoidable decision, which direction should you go when no presentable path is painless? God knows you need wisdom to see the through the thick and heavy darkness. He says ask Him, and He will provide you wisdom.

We know the path to take when our trial is persecution for doing what is right. *“Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold temptations; knowing the proving of your faith worketh patience. And let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing”* (James 1:2-4). Some tests come upon us when, as Christians, we have only one decision to make in order to remain faithful to the Lord. Like the apostles, *“We must obey God rather than men”* (Acts 5:29). Tested by authorities, we can respond emphatically. Like the chosen messengers of the Lord, we need not ponder further about our decision. Like them, after the consequent beating, we go away *“rejoicing”* because we have been *“counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name”* (Acts 5:41).

We are now on the same path described by James. We can

now rejoice in our trying temptation. Our joy is the knowledge that our steadfastness of faith is making us whole and mature in the Lord. We did not have to pray for this completeness, we experience it by following God’s knowable will in His Word (*Romans 12:2*).

But there are trials that involve more than seeing if you will take the only path God offers, regardless of the circumstances. How does the poor Christian react to the ungodly rich man who has power over his life (*cf. James 1:9-11, 5:4*)? He needs to walk in wisdom, but maybe lacks it regarding a decision that must be made. James exhorts such to *“...ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him”* (James 1:5).

Oh God, I know my speech needs to be “timely”, but is this the time to speak? Should I be quiet, as I faithfully wait on You to act? Is there something I can say, maybe a tone in saying it, that can stop the oppression my family and I are feeling at the hands of the ungodly rich?

The Christian can freely come to God for guidance, knowing He will fully supply what is lacking in making a wise choice.

We can present our case, knowing God will not ridicule, make fun of, or chastise us for not knowing the wise thing to do.

In seeking God’s help for wisdom, we must come to Him without doubting. *“But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting...For let not that man think he shall receive anything of the Lord; a double minded man, unstable in all his ways”* (James 1:6-8). The doubting here is more serious than just questioning if God will answer our prayer. It is doubting whether we really want God’s answer.

It is possible to ask for God’s help, when we are not really asking *“in faith”*, fully committed to following the Lord in all that we do. Such a person is a *“double minded man”*. Not being *“single minded”* leads to unstable ways in living. The doubting one is *“like the surge of the sea, driving by the wind and tossed”* (James 1:6).

Do not expect God to provide wisdom for your crisis if you are not coming to Him fully committed to His way. He is saving His wisdom for those asking in faith. He will amply supply, with no ridicule, His wisdom for the one who is asking for His way, not necessarily a convenient way.