



JAMES

Living Out Your
Faith Victoriously
Chapter 1

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JAMES CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Thanks for joining me tonight for our continued study of the Book of James in the New Testament. I am thoroughly enjoying this study and learning much about my relationship to my LORD Jesus Christ. I hope that you are as well.

Let me give you a short reminder of our approach to this study. It is a comprehensive sentence-by-sentence study of each paragraph and chapter of the entire book. We start with study of each sentence in a paragraph. Then, at the end of the paragraph, we come back and do a summary looking to learn Biblical principles as well as practical application. When

we come to end of a chapter, we will do a chapter summary in the same manner. My prayer is that when we are finished, we have good understanding of the entire book of James and the things that God wishes us to know and obey.

Last week, we started working on the second paragraph of chapter one. That paragraph began with verse 5. Tonight, we are going to work on verse 6. Let us begin by reading the entire paragraph then we will come back to verse 6.

James 1:5-12

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. 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: for let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.



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But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.

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James 1:5-12

Now, let me correct a mistake that I made last week. I said last week that this paragraph consisted of seven sentences over eight verses. I was wrong in my calculations. I hope that you will forgive me. I notice my mistake this week in preparing for verse 6. Verse 6 itself has 2 complete sentences. As I thought about that, I realize I may have miscounted. So, I went back and counted again. There are 8 sentences over eight verses. Verse 6 is two distinct sentences. Yet, verses 9 and 10 have only one long sentence spanning both verses. Thus, we have eight sentences divided by eight verses.



Ok, having said all that, let us turn our attention to verse 6 and its two sentences.

Verse 6 reads...

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. James 1:6

BODY

We will continue in our study as we have done with the other verses. We will begin by examining the parts of speech found in these sentences. We will then summarize what we have learned. Then, we will analyze the verse considering 2 Timothy 3:16 and 17.

For sake of time and to further our study along, we treat all of verse 6 and the two sentences there as one.

Here are the parts of speech.

Grammatical Analysis

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**. James 1:6



Verbs

LET HIM ASK – aiteó: to ask, request
WAVERING – 1252 diakrínō (from 1223 /diá, "thoroughly back-and-forth,"
which intensifies 2919 /krínō, "to judge") – properly, investigate (judge) thoroughly – literally, judging "back-and-forth" which can either (positively) refer to close-reasoning (discrimination) or negatively "over-judging" (going too far, vacillating). Only the context indicates which sense is meant.
[1252 (diakrínō) "literally means, 'to separate throughout or wholly' (diá, 'asunder,' krinō, 'to judge,' from a root kri, meaning 'separation'), then, to distinguish, decide" (Vine, Unger, White, NT, 125).]
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IS LIKE – eikó: be like.
DRIVEN WITH THE WIND – anemizó: to drive by the wind
TOSSED - rhipizó: to fan, generally to make a breeze

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IS LIKE – eikó: be like.

DRIVEN WITH THE WIND – anemizó: to drive by the wind

TOSSED - rhipizó: to fan, generally to make a breeze

Nouns

FAITH - 4102 *pístis* from 3982/peithô, persuade, be persuaded; 1111 *peithô* persuasion (be persuaded, come to trust, faith)
A WAVE - 5026 *kludôn* a billow (of water)
THE SEA - 2025 *thalassa* the sea



Nouns

FAITH – 4102 *pístis* (from 3982/*peithô*, "persuade, be persuaded") – properly, *persuasion* (be persuaded, come to trust); *faith*.

A WAVE – *kludôn*: a billow (of water)

THE SEA - *thalassa*: the sea

Adjectives

NOTHING - 3367 *mēdeís* (from 3361 possibility or 1120/heis, one; 1120/one, nothing – literally, not even one.)



Adjectives

NOTHING – 3367 *mēdeís* (from 3361 /*mē*, "not a possibility" and 1520 /*heís*, "one") – properly, "no one, nothing" –

literally, "not even one."

Adverbs

N/A

SUMMARY

James 1:6

But **let him ask** in *faith*, **nothing wavereth**. For he that **wavereth** is like a *wave* of the *sea* **driven with the wind** and **tossed**.

But **let him ask** [request] in *faith* [with a fully persuaded mind and heart], **nothing** [without any possibility or iota] **wavering** [judging back-and-forth [aka overthinking it or overjudging the facts]]. For he that **wavereth** [judges back-and-forth] is like a *wave* [a billow [of water]] of the *sea* [sea] **driven with the wind** [to drive by the wind] and **tossed** [to fan, generally to make a breeze].

Summary

But **let him ask** in *faith*, **nothing wavereth**. For he that **wavereth** is like a *wave* of the *sea* **driven with the wind** and **tossed**. James 1:6

But **let him ask** [request] in *faith* [with a fully persuaded mind and heart], **nothing** [without any possibility or iota] **wavering** [judging back-and-forth (aka overthinking it or overjudging the facts)]. For he that **wavereth** [judges back-and-forth] is like a *wave* [a billow (of water)] of the *sea* [sea] **driven with the wind** [to drive by the wind] and **tossed** [to fan, generally to make a breeze].



2 Timothy 2:16 & 17 Analysis

So now we move to understanding our passage according to

Scripture.

I want to add a little step this evening if I may. That added step starts us off by asking two particularly important questions before we do our 2 Timothy analysis. The first of these is...



What is God talking about in this verse?

For me, the answer is this. God is talking about asking or making

requests of Him.

The second question then becomes...



What is God saying about asking or making requests of Him?

Essentially, God is telling us the way we should make requests. We are to make the request in faith. We are to make our requests without wavering. He then gives us an illustration of a person who wavers. They are like a sea wave that is driven by the wind and tossed.

With that in mind, we can now ask these questions based on 2 Timothy 3:16 and 17.

What is RIGHT?

- Going to God with your requests is RIGHT!



What is RIGHT?

Clearly, we know from this verse as well as other Scripture passages that is RIGHT to...

Go to God with our requests.

Note that God simply says "...let him ask..." From that, I can surmise that God does in fact want me to come to Him with my requests. He desires that we communicate with Him on a lever that we feel comfortable to coming to Him with our needs as well as our desires.

**Matthew
7:8**

For every one that asketh
receiveth; and he that
seeketh findeth; and to
him that knocketh it shall
be opened.

This is something we see often in Scripture. Here are some passages that teach us this same principle.

**Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto**

your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Matthew 7:7-11



Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matthew 21:18-22



Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. John 14:8-14



If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will,

and it shall be done unto you. John 15:7



A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the

Father. Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith. Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is

born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:16-24



And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. 1 John 5:14-15

It is RIGHT then to go to God with our petitions and request. I believe that John 16:24 especially speaks to this. Christ told the disciples that up to that point they asked nothing in his name. Then says to them to ask and they will receive making their joy full. Therefore, I am reminded that God does indeed want us to come to Him with our requests.

Getting back to our text, God qualifies that with two statements. We are to...

What is **RIGHT**?

- Going to God with your requests is **RIGHT!**
- Asking our requests with complete faith is **RIGHT!**



Ask our requests with complete faith.

He said “**...let him ask in faith.**” Faith is an interesting subject. It is a big subject in Scripture.

In its simplicity, faith is believing. However, it goes much deeper than just believing. Hebrews 11 defines it this way.



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

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

Romans 10 tells us...

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



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

And we know according to Ephesians 2...

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works; lest any man should boast.



**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.
Ephesians 2:8-9**

Later in our study of the James we will examine this verse that states...



Even so faith, if
it hath not
works, is dead,
being alone.
James 2:17

**Even so faith, if it hath
not works, is dead,
being alone. James 2:17**

Faith is just depending completely on the promise of God's Word. It is hearing what God has to say which in turn causes you to believe it and act upon it. That is way James says faith is always accompanied with works or actions. Saving faith is a great example of this. Ephesians talks about our salvation coming via grace. Grace is all about what God has done or is doing. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ (who is God), to this earth with one special mission. He sacrificed himself upon the cross for our sins. His act of sacrifice along with His burial and His resurrection paved the way for us to escape the penalty of our sin. Christ did it all. When a person is confronted with the Gospel, they hear, and it falls upon them to believe. When they believe and accept it by faith, they act upon that by confessing their sin, repenting from their sin, and receiving Him into their heart and life. That is way Romans tells us that if confess with mouth and believe in our heart we are truly saved. Thus, true faith is always followed by actions.

In our text, we are encouraged to come to God with our requests. However, in doing so, we must come asking in faith. We must fully commit to God and whatever answer He gives. Our duty is to simply trust Him and His will for our life. All this leads us to the next qualifiers of asking God for petitions which is...

What is **RIGHT**?

- Going to God with your requests is **RIGHT**!
- Asking our requests with complete faith is **RIGHT**!
- Asking our requests without overthinking it is **RIGHT**!



Ask our requests without overthinking it.

Remember our text says

“...let him ask in faith, nothing wavering...”

You may remember that

word **“wavering”** has the idea of not judging back and forth. It can be used both negatively and positively. Positively it is used to in the sense of close reasoning to discern the fact. Negatively it is used in the sense of over judging or over thinking a subject. Use is dependent upon context.

For me, as a I examine this verse, God is saying that when I come to Him to ask of Him a request or petition that I should not overthink it. Basically, I should submit my request, trust Him, and not fret the rest.

We, as people, tend to overthink things a little too much. We especially do this in our relationship with God. Instead of simply trusting God in certain situations, we try to reason it all out. We create in our minds all kinds of scenarios and outcomes. Then we try to pick which one is best for us and then we ask God for that one. We keep relying on our own sinful tendencies instead of relying on the One Who truly knows what is best for us.

God is saying do not do that. Instead, just come to me, ask, and leave the rest up to me. Come ask in faith and don not overthink it – nothing wavering.

What is NOT RIGHT?

We are not to overthink our requests. If we do, we become tossed and driven by our thoughts as we overthink our requests and God's answer.



What is NOT RIGHT?

Again, the answer is clear. We are not to overthink our requests. If we do, we become tossed and driven by our

thoughts as we overthink our requests and God's answer.

CONCLUSION

That last two questions will be answered in the rest of the text. Unfortunately, we have already run out of time for this evening. My prayer is that you learned something from God's Word tonight.