

ADVANTAGES OF GENUINE FAITH

JAMES 1:5-11

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: From facing your trials with pure joy and maturing in your faith by perseverance, James now gives the advantages of genuine faith.

GENUINE FAITH MAY ASK AND RECEIVE WISDOM—God, the giver of all things, generously gives wisdom to the believer when he or she asks in faith. (**James 1:5, fn 1:5[1st], fn 1:5[2nd], I Corinthians 1:30, fn 1:30, Proverbs 9:10, Proverbs 2:1-6, Matthew 7:7, 8, fn 7:7, 8**) *Why does God want you to ask for wisdom and how is this to your advantage?*

GENUINE FAITH DISPELS DOUBTS. Faith is confidence in God. It is believing what God has said. Unbelief is a lack of confidence resulting in lack of trust. It can be compared to being at a stoplight that has turned green and refusing to go because of lack of confidence in the light. You build confidence in God by spending time in His presence, seeking to know Him through His Word and prayer. (**James 1:6-8, fn 1:6[1st], fn 1:6[2nd], fn 1:6-8, Ephesians 2:8, 9, fn 2:8, 9, Hebrews 11:1, fn 11:1, Hebrews 11:6, fn 11:6, Hebrews 10:32-39, fn 10:35-38, I John 3:19-24, fn 3:23**) *What part of your life have you not committed wholeheartedly to God, and what are you going to do about it?*

GENUINE FAITH DEPENDS ONLY ON GOD. It does not trust in your own wisdom, abilities, or possessions. “The entire New Testament, as well as what we see in people’s lives, suggests that riches are a potential danger to spiritual life. Jesus views them as a spiritual liability rather than an asset. His beatitude goes to the poor, not the rich. ‘You are blessed because your poverty directs your soul to me.’” R. Kent Hughes, James: Faith That Works, p. 39. (**James 1:9-11, fn 1:9, fn 1:9-11, Revelation 3:17, fn 3:17, Matthew 13:22, fn 13:22, I Timothy 6:6-10, fn 6:6-10, James 2:5, fn 2:5**) *How are your riches or desired riches a handicap for you?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord. Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?

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