

# Victoria Fellowship Church International & Interdenominational

**Bible Study Worksheet – April 10, 2022**

**Theme:** James: Faith in Action

**Topic:** Asking in Faith

**Main Text:** James 1:5-11; Mark 11:1-11

**Key verse:** James 1:5 *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (NKJV)*

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**INTRODUCTION:** Last week, we looked at ‘Turning trial into triumph’ from James 1:1-4. One key lesson from that study is the inevitability of trials. Often, when facing a myriad of trials, it is common to be overwhelmed with a sense of hopelessness, especially when trying to make sense of it all. This is worsened when the speculative wisdom of the world falls short. So, in James 1:5-8, God offers to give the wisdom needed to navigate those difficult waters of trials. But He says we must ask for it and ask in faith. And *“faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1 NKJV). Faith can also be described as “the complete trust or confidence in someone or something”. It is about believing in someone or something that one has no physical, tangible evidence of. The Bible is full of examples of people who exemplified this kind of faith in God: Men like Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, and Moses. Hebrews 11:1-40 mentions several other people of faith. In James 1:5-8, James outlines for us how this faith can be applied when asking God for wisdom where they were lacking.

1. **Read Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 17:20; Matthew 21:22; James 1:6-8; Hebrews 11:6a. (a) Why does asking from God have to be done in faith? (b) What response are we assured to expect from God when we ask in faith? What are some examples of this from the Bible? (c) Hebrews 12:2 (NIV) refers to Jesus as “the Author and Perfector of our faith...” What do you understand by this, and how might it relate to asking in faith?**

Faith is the currency of heaven. No wonder the Bible says, “But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone” (James 1:6a. NLT). Also, that “without faith, it is impossible to please God.” And in Mark 11:24, “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them”. The implication of these verses is that to receive from God depends on our i.) asking, and ii.) believing in Him. Through faith and patience, we inherit the promises of God (Hebrews 6:12). But where does this power of faith lie? Is it in the strength of our belief or where?

2. **Read Matthew 7:7-12; James 1:5-6; Hebrews 4:14-16; 11:6. (a) According to James 1:5-6, what is the basis for our asking from God in faith? (b) What other essential ingredients of our asking in faith do we find in Hebrews 11:6? (c) What does this say about how we should approach God in prayer?**

When Jesus went about healing all manner of sickness and disease, those who had faith got healed, and those who did not have faith did not experience healing or other miracles of Jesus. Examples of this are in Matthew 9:1-2, 20-22, 27-29, and Matthew 13:58 (NKJV) that, *“He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”* God has made adequate provision for His children but our faith in Him is what will pull on those resources. 2 Peter 1:3a tells us that *“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness”*. That includes faith. Asking God in faith requires our obedience to His instructions. In Mark 11:1-11 when Jesus sent the two disciples to the village to get Him a colt, they did exactly as He commanded. And when they were queried, they responded with confidence. They had faith that everything would play out just as Jesus had said it would. They had faith in Him. So how do we activate the kind of faith that causes us to “come boldly unto God’s throne of Grace?”

3. **(a) Faith has enemies.... Things that hinder our faith in God. According to James 1:6-8; Matthew 13:53-58; what are some examples of hindrances to our faith? (b) What steps can we take as Christians to guard against these enemies to our asking God in faith? (See Psalm 56:11; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 12:2). (c) What one thing do you commit to start doing from today in obedience to God’s instruction that we ask Him in faith?**

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**Prayer:** Dear God, baptize me with a fresh anointing of the Spirit of Faith, that I may approach Your throne of Grace with boldness and confidence, believing completely that You hear me and will answer my prayers. May my faith in You be unshakable no matter what, In Jesus Name, Amen.