

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Study Guide

Wisdom in Trials

Kevin Yule
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Major Points

- 1 The real trial is not the circumstance itself but the moment of deciding whether to step out in faith and trust God**

James 1:2-4

- 2 When we lack wisdom in trials, God promises to give it generously and without condescension to all who ask**

James 1:5

- 3 We must ask God in faith without doubting — double-mindedness and trying to maintain control makes us unstable and unable to receive from God**

James 1:6-8

- 4 Knowing God through His Word, remembering His faithfulness, and sharing stories in community are practical ways to grow in faith and reduce doubt**

Psalms 37:3-7

Key Quotes

“The trial is not in the doing. The trial is in the action. The trial is in that moment of asking ourselves, are we going to step out in faith and trust or not?”

at 4:31

“God's not going to look at me and go, Kevin, are you kidding me? Duty head again? Didn't we go through this when you were seven? What's the matter with you? Have you not learned anything? Have you not grown up? That's not how God operates.”

at 11:58

“You want to begin to pray and pray with a little less doubt? Man, spend some time getting to know the one who is sitting there in the pool going, just jump. I got you.”

at 19:45

“Don't jump just far enough to where if he doesn't catch you, you can turn around and swim back. That's double minded.”

at 29:49

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Yule used the swimming pool illustration with his daughter McKinley to describe what it feels like to stand at the edge of a trial. Can you think of a time when you felt like you were standing at the edge of the pool, knowing God was asking you to jump but feeling paralyzed by uncertainty?
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2. What struck you about the idea that God gives wisdom 'without reproach'? How does knowing that God won't shame you for asking — even for things that seem small — change the way you approach Him in prayer?

3. Pastor Yule was really honest about his own struggle with anxiety — praying, finding peace, and then immediately jumping back to fretting and searching Craigslist for solutions. Why do you think it's so hard to stay in that place of peace after we've given something to God?

4. The sermon talked about being 'double-minded' as debating back and forth between trusting God and trying to maintain control. What does that look like practically in your life — what are some ways you try to 'build a boat' instead of jumping?

5. Pastor Yule emphasized that community — telling stories of God's faithfulness to one another — is essential for battling doubt. How has someone else's story of God's faithfulness strengthened your own faith during a difficult season, and how might you do that for someone else this week?

Word Studies

δίψυχος
dipsychos

Greek

Literally 'two-souled,' describing a person divided in loyalty and conviction, vacillating between two opposing commitments rather than being wholly devoted.

ἀπλῶς
haplōs

Greek

With sincerity and wholehearted generosity, conveying an open, undivided, and ungrudging manner of giving without hidden motives.

σοφία sophia

Greek

Practical moral insight and divine discernment for navigating life's circumstances rightly, not merely intellectual knowledge but God-given skill for faithful living.

Cross References

Proverbs 3:5-6

Directly parallels the sermon's central call to trust God rather than relying on one's own understanding — the Old Testament foundation for the kind of undivided, non-double-minded faith James demands.

Isaiah 41:10

God's promise not to fear because He is present and will strengthen and uphold His people connects to the pool illustration — God standing in the water saying 'I've got you, just jump.'

Matthew 14:29-31

Peter walking on water and beginning to sink when he doubted is a narrative embodiment of James 1:6's wave metaphor — faith enables the step, but doubt causes instability.

Lamentations 3:22-23

Affirms God's steadfast love and daily faithfulness, reinforcing Pastor Yule's point about building Ebenezer-like reminders of God's past faithfulness to combat present doubt.

Hebrews 11:6

Establishes that without faith it is impossible to please God and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him — the theological basis for why double-minded asking receives nothing from the Lord.

Further Reading

- **The Letter of James (Pillar New Testament Commentary)**
by Douglas J. Moo
- **When the Darkness Will Not Lift: Doing What We Can While We Wait for God — and Joy**
by John Piper
- **Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts**
by Jerry Bridges

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
James 1:5-8	Read Aloud	5 : 48	<i>If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who g...</i>
Psalms 37:1-7	Referenced	9 : 54	<i>Don't fret because of evildoers, neither be enviou...</i>
2 Chronicles 20:1-12	Referenced	12 : 41	<i>After this, the children of Moab, the children of ...</i>
Psalms 13:1-6	Referenced	26 : 32	<i>How long, Yahweh? Will you forget me forever?</i>
James 1:2-4	Referenced	0 : 42	<i>How ...</i>
James 1:6	Read Aloud	13 : 08	<i>But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for th...</i>
James 1:7-8	Read Aloud	13 : 28	<i>For that person must not suppose that he will rece...</i>
2 Chronicles 20:12	Referenced	12 : 37	
Psalms 50:10	Referenced	17 : 55	
1 Samuel 7:12	Referenced	21 : 25	