



Prayer 102



After Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, (Luke 1:35) and was born in Bethlehem, Mary later had other children conceived in her by Joseph. The oldest of these children, who were half-brothers & half-sisters of Jesus, was James. (Matthew 13:55,56)



James became a great leader in the Jerusalem church with Peter and the other apostles. It is said of James that he spent so much time on his knees in prayer that they became as callused as the knees of a camel. James was noted for his wisdom because he had learned his wisdom from God in prayer, so his words are good for us to follow to learn how we too can have godly wisdom for our lives.

James wrote one of the best known letters in the New Testament, and he begins his letter by saying, "*count it all joy when you find yourself in difficulties and temptations of any kind, knowing and understanding that the trials will improve your faith and bring out endurance and patience in you.*" (James 1:2,3)

Most of us can't think what good patience is to us. It's hard to be patient when we want something to happen. We want it now! We're raised in a now generation. We didn't learn the patience of farmers who planted seeds and watered and waited for the seeds to grow and the harvest to come.



We're not used to waiting. We have fast food, instant lights, fast cars, instant computer output, and drive-ins for banking; prescriptions; photo developing; even churches. We have instant pictures, videos, cell phone calls, money transfers, instant microwave cooking, there is no end to the list. We even count the number of items of the person ahead of us in the express check out line at the market to see if they have more than the number allowed on the sign, and if they have 12 when they should have 10, we get impatient and angry with them for making us wait!

But, James tells us something that is a very important ingredient for answered prayers. He says don't be impatient, don't cut patience off by getting angry or irritated or frustrated about something. Instead, keep your patience, your cheerful and hopeful endurance, because patience will do a perfect, complete work of mental and moral character growth in you; then you will be complete in every part, with no defects and lacking nothing! (James 1:4)

So, no matter what trials or problems you face in your situation right now accept them with calmness and cheerfulness because you know they are helping to make you into a whole, complete person. James goes on to say, "*If any of you don't have wisdom (to be patient), ask God to give you wisdom. He gives it to anyone who asks and does not reproach them for asking.*" (James 1:5)

(Cont'd)

“But it must be in faith you ask, with no wavering that is, no drawing back from your prayer because of doubt once you have asked it. Because if you waver and doubt, you will be like a wave out in the ocean that is blown and tossed this way & that way by the wind.” (James 1:6)



Anyone who wavers like that in doubt and unbelief after they have prayed and asked God to do something, and no longer believes God can or will do it, will not receive anything from the Lord, so don't expect it. (James 1:7)

A person who does this is called double-minded, or two-spirited (a spirit of faith from God and a spirit of doubt from the devil). A double-minded person is unstable and unreliable, and uncertain about everything he thinks, feels and decides. He or she will be hesitant and doubtful in their prayer life as well as in the affairs of daily life.

Jesus made a promise and sealed it with His blood on the cross. He promised, *“If you live in Me, (stay in close relationship with Me), --- and my words remain in you, (and continue to live in your heart), ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you.”* (John 15:7 AMP)



If, as this Scripture says, you will keep your heart fixed steadfast on Jesus, and follow His commandments, you will be doing what is required for answered prayer. Prayer is simply seeking God's will for you and bringing your will into line with God's will for you. He has a plan and a purpose for your life that promises you a future and a hope.

We can know God's will by studying the things that Jesus did and the words that He spoke. Jesus said, *“My teaching is not my own, but His who sent Me.”* (John 7:16 AMP)



Prayer 102

1. Who conceived Jesus in Mary's womb? (Luke 1:35) _____
2. What was James noted for in the early church? _____
3. How did he get all his wisdom? _____
4. Why should I count it all joy in trials and difficulties? (James 1:3) _____

5. Why shouldn't I get impatient? (James 1:4) _____

6. If I don't have the wisdom to be patient, what should I do? (James 1:5) _____

7. Is just asking enough? (James 1:6) _____

8. If I do ask and then doubt if I'll get it, what happens? (James 1:7) _____
9. Does being double-minded only affect my prayer life? _____

10. How can I make Jesus' promise work for me? (John 15:7 AMP)
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE: _____

Prayer 102

1. Who conceived Jesus in Mary's womb? (Luke 1:35) The Holy Spirit of God.
2. What was James noted for in the early church? His godly wisdom.
3. How did he get all his wisdom? From God in prayer.
4. Why should I count it all joy in trials and difficulties? (James 1:3) Because it will bring out endurance and patience in me.
5. Why shouldn't I get impatient? (James 1:4) Because patience will do a complete and perfect work in me.
6. If I don't have the wisdom to be patient, what should I do? (James 1:5) Pray and ask God to give it to me.
7. Is just asking enough? (James 1:6) No, I must ask in faith without wavering.
8. If I do ask and then doubt if I'll get it, what happens? (James 1:7) Nothing!
9. Does being double-minded only affect my prayer life? No, it will affect everything I think, feel and decide.
10. How can I make Jesus' promise work for me? (John 15:7AMP)

MEMORY VERSE: *"If you live in Me, and My words remain in your heart, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you."*