



Series Life Tools

Passage James 1:1-8

Title What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do

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- **Discussion Starter:** We learned that good tools can make all the difference in how we encounter trials in our lives. We also learned that using a bad tools in a trial can create disasters. Here are some of the common bad tools people use when faced with a trial: 1> Worrying 2> Making Quick Decisions 3> Becoming Paralyzed with Fear 4> Diversion... Hoping the Trial Goes Away 5> Pulling Back...Your Life Gets Smaller and Smaller. Which of these five worldly tools have you most frequently used in the past? How would you describe the effect they have had on your life?

Having a Positive Mindset- Desiring to Grasp, Grow and Glorify God (James 1:1-4)

- James, the half-brother of Jesus, did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah until after He rose from the dead. This is encouraging to us because it is never too late while we are here on the earth to come to Jesus. What is the importance of James declaring that he was a bondservant to Christ? Should we as Christians consider ourselves as bondservants of Christ and what impact will this have on us?
- In James 1:2 we are instructed to embrace our various trials and to “**Count**” them as “**Joy**”. Philosophy, Self-Help, Meditation and Yoga can instruct men to be calm under their troubles, but Christianity teaches us to be joyful. How would you explain how these other tools differ from those based in Christianity?
- Just like good parents, God uses different methods to grow us as Christians. Trials tend to reveal things to us in 3D. Explain the importance of how the words “**Knowing**” and “**Let**” in James 1:3-4 work together like a ratchet and a socket for enabling us to have a positive mindset as we go through various trials?
- Can you recall a time in your life where you have experienced this joy? How would you explain the patience that was produced in your life as a result of this trial?

Ask God for Wisdom (James 1:5; Matthew 7:7-8)

- We learned that God gives liberally when we ask Him for help when we don't know what to do. What additional instruction do we get on how to ask God for wisdom from reading Matthew 7:7-8?

When We Ask God for Wisdom We Must Ask Properly (James 1:6-8; James 4:2-3, John 14:13-14)

- We are instructed in James 1:6 on the proper way to ask... and that is in faith and without doubt. We know that our faith is not faith in faith, but faith in Jesus. We learned that not doubting... means not wavering from what we know to be true and holding our post. James describes the person who doubts as being double minded. How can that happen to us as we go through our various trials?
- What additional instruction can we obtain from comparing and contrasting James 4:2-3 and John 14:13-14 as to the proper and improper ways to ask things of God?