

Trusting God For Wisdom in Decision-Making (James 1:5-8)

By Bill Gaultiere ~ [Lectio Divina Guides](#) ~ [SoulShepherding.org](#)

Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

Introduction: Jesus' little brother James writes to Jewish Christ-followers who were driven out of their homeland by persecution. He teaches them and us to rejoice in our trials because they help us to grow spiritually — if we keep asking God for wisdom and trusting him. But if we keep doubting God it *splits our souls* and our life becomes unstable. (Young's Literal Translation of James 1:8 is "a two-souled man is unstable in all his ways.") When we put our confidence in the Lord's loving presence and wise guidance it helps us make good decisions and it integrates our life.

Opening Prayer: "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul" (Psalm 25:1).

Read Scripture: James 1:5-8

If you don't know what to do ask God — your Father won't be irritated, he will happily give abundant wisdom to all who ask. But be sure you trust the Lord to guide you and don't keep doubting. To pray and doubt is to be two-souled; you'll be like a ship lost at sea, driven and tossed back and forth by the shifting winds of circumstances. To make it safely to land wait for the friendly wind of the Spirit and then open up your sail till you find yourself standing secure on solid ground. (BG paraphrase)

1st Reading: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

2nd Reading: Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3rd Reading: What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.