# The Wisdom of God

James 1:2-5

#### James 1:2-5

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

#### Joy....in trials

- we plan....want to avoid trials
- In His wisdom, God's plan for us include trials

### Wisdom is

• The ability to see, to chose the best course /plan and to achieve that plan.

#### Wisdom is

- The ability to see, to chose the best course /plan and to achieve that plan.
- God's wisdom is His power to see, plan and to complete His plan

- Moral as well as intellectual
- Not only the best plan.....the righteous one

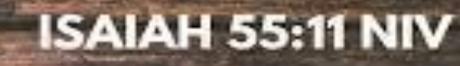
## His wisdom is

- Eternal
- Based on His goodness
- Totally trustworthy

**"FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT** YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS," **DECLARES THE LORD. "AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN** THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS **HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR** HOUGHTS. ISAIAH 55:8-9

His wisdom is eternalBeyond us... infinite

#### His wisdom is higher than ours



"SO IS MY WORD THAT GOES OUT FROM MY MOUTH: IT WILL NOT RETURN TO ME EMPTY,

BUT WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT I DESIRE AND ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH I SENT IT." • His Word...revealed wisdom

 effective to achieve desired result



For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 NIV

- Penetrate the soul
- Judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart
- It convict the individual heart.

## JACOB THE PATRIARCH: Genesis 25-35

Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?" So she went to inquire of the Lord.

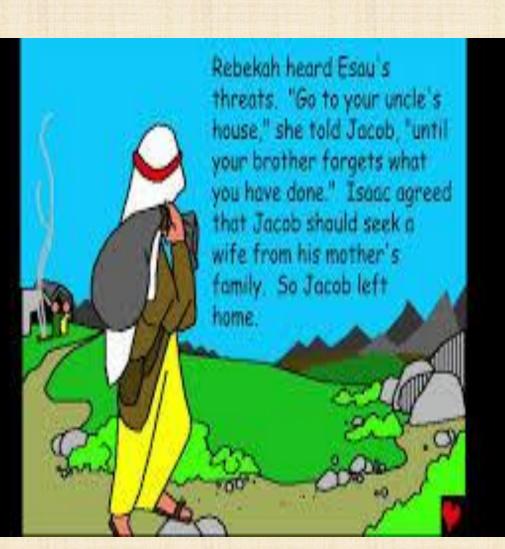
- Genesis 25:21-22





- Deceived Esau.... Birthright as firstborn
- Deceived Isaacs.... Stole his blessings

Escape Esau's wrath..... ran to Haran



#### Jacob faced a crisis



- God met Jacob at Bethel (28:12-19)
- Renewed the Covenant
- Promise to watch over Jacob

#### Laban the uncle

- Laban tricked him.. marrying elder daughter, Leah.
- Worked extra seven years for Rachel, whom he loved. (29:18-28)
- Continuously changed his wages (31:7)

The Deceiver Gets Deceived

GENESIS 29:1-30

Jacob's Story

## Before meeting with Esau



Struggled with God
Jacob wanted God's blessing... could not win it
Held on....persevere  Jacob wanted God's blessing...

But,

 God weakened him before he could receive the blessing and the inheritance

Crippled Jacob...
 reminder of his weakness

#### God's wisdom

- Steal Esau's birthright and Isaacs blessings
- Tricked by Laban
- Married Leah and Rachel (and their maids)..

#### Purpose

- Jacob's attitude to life was ungodly and unholy...
- God needed to:
- instill true godliness into Jacob
- weaned off trust in his own cleverness /deception to depend only on God.

#### God's patient wisdom

- About 20 years of discipline
- Led Jacob to have a sense of impotent helplessness .... imprinted in Jacob's soul
- God disciplined Jacob to fulfill His purpose.

From Jacob to Israel: A Transformed Life

**Jacob** the Deceiver

Genesis 25

#### God's discipline

- Abraham...waited 25 years for the promised child
- Joseph....trained in slavery and prison.. about 13 years
- Moses.... 40 years of wilderness training

 God's wisdom Included trials of many kinds to prepare them for His purpose

#### Based on His goodness(love)...

#### We mistakenly think

 God will give us a troublefree life, irrespective of how we live our lives morally and spiritually

#### Wrong conclusion

- Painful and upsetting (illness, accidents, injury, loss of job...) events indicate either that God's wisdom have failed, or
- God does not exist

#### Based on His goodness(love)...

 God's wisdom...have joy in Him  In every circumstance, including trials, God is in control

Right conclusion

• His goodness... guide His plan for us even in our trials

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe C.S. Lewis cliffnotebooks.com



Mr Tumnus said to Lucy about Aslan, the Lion : You mustn't press him, he isn't a tame lion. No, but he's good The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe C.S. Lewis cliffnotebooks.com

- God is good... but not always easy to understand.
- His wisdom is a mystery until He chose to reveal it to us

#### James 1:2-5

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

### Joy when facing trials

- God's wise plan for us may include times of discipline.
- To prepare us...like a potter molding a shapeless lump of clay into a beautiful vase

This is God's wisdom

## Wise purpose for discipline

- Trials and testing produce in us...
- Perseverance which lead to...
- Maturity, lacking nothing

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

James 1:5 ESV

- Need His wisdom to help us navigate the 'trials'
- He gives generously ..
- Ask with trust and belief (1:6)

# No one is exempted from trials JAMES 1:9-11

Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position.
<sup>10</sup> But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.

God's wisdom apply to everyone....all will face death the final trial in life.

#### Perseverance.....



Jacob held on to God...he persevered and obtained the blessing.

#### Perseverance.....



James 1:12

BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO PERSEVERES UNDER TRIAL BECAUSE, HAVING STOOD THE TEST, THAT PERSON WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE THAT THE LORD HAS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

#### Perseverance .....testing of faith

• Failure in post graduate exams

- Multiple failures in exams.
- Near giving up except for wife's encouragement.
- Finally passed in Ireland.. God spoke to Siok Ting through a dream

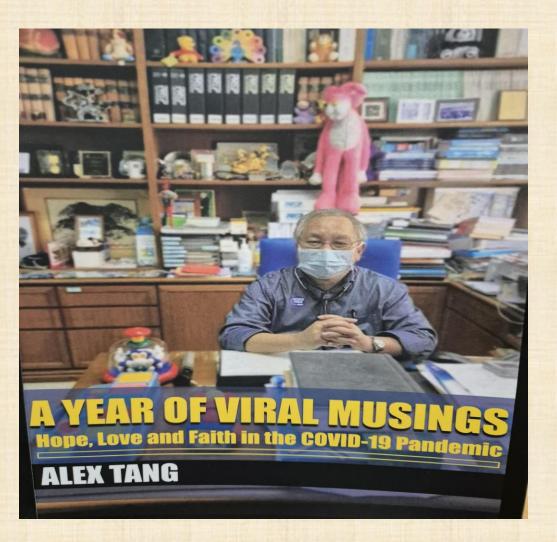
#### Perseverance ....

Siok Ting's cancer journey: June 2016 to July 2021
Initial shock

- Treatments
- Complications
- Drug side effects

#### Perseverance ....

- Many unanswered questions
- Elder Dr Alex's sudden departure.. great loss to Christian community



#### Perseverance ....

- Many unanswered questions
- Elder Dr Alex's sudden departure.. great loss to Christian community
- Hold on to the hope in Christ Jesus our Lord

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.



#### HEBREWS 6:19

HECONSECRATED/WOMAN.COM

## His wisdom.... totally trustworthy

#### TRUST IN THE LORD XE YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING: IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT YOUR PATHS. PROVERES 2:5-8

• Do not trust your own wisdom..

• Like Jacob.. unlearn self reliance and dependance, and..

 Learn by discipline of trials....to trust and depend on Him completely

#### Totally trust His wisdom



- Based on control panel view....whole picture
- God's wisdom spans eternity...
- God is in control

#### Timetable view



- Our wisdom ....limited by our view/ understanding of the time and circumstances
- No power or control over the circumstances and what comes next...

#### Job 42:1-3

Then Job replied to the LORD: 2 "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. 3 You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know; 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

- We misunderstand and wrongly perceived God's purpose
- Must despised our understanding and repent

## My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:5-6 NV **B BIBLE PORTAL**

- Ears have heard...had been righteous and faithfully following God
- Eyes have seen....know God intimately after his trial and encounter with God
- Lead to repentance

Job 42:5-6

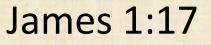
"Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:19-20 NIV

 Trials may come from Satan and wicked men, but God always intend it for good



 God is good all the time.... even through trials



?heortiantena

## His wisdom is

- Eternal
- Based on His goodness (love)
- Totally trustworthy

#### In many trials...

- Acknowledge God's eternal wisdom
- His wisdom is based on His goodness and love ... therefore is totally trustworthy
- Ask for His wisdom...cannot have enough

#### HIS WORDS

AND WE KNOW THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM, WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

ROMANS 8:28, NIV