

# How to Make Up Your Mind

## Surviving the Challenges of Life

*James 1:5-11*

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*If you need wisdom – if you want to know what God wants you to do – ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.*

— James 1:5-6 (NLT)

### I. Three Hindering Mental Attitudes

1. Procrastination caused by:
  - a. Wanting perfect conditions (Ecc. 11:4).
  - b. Over spiritualizing (Prov. 3:5-6; 16:3).
  - c. Double mindedness (James 1:8; 1 Kings 18:21).
2. Passivity caused by:
  - a. Yielding access to your mind (2 Cor. 10:5; 1 Pet. 5:8).
  - b. Stopped Learning (Prov. 19:8; 16:16).
  - c. No scheduled time to think and read weekly (1 Thess. 4:11; Prov. 23:19).
3. Panic caused by:
  - a. Lack of faith (James 1:6).
  - b. Lack of diligence (Prov. 15:19; 18:9).

- c. Lack of freedom (2 Tim. 1:7; Ps. 91:5).

### II. James' Three Step Program for Making Decisions

1. Recognize the problem: Indecision (James 1:8).

*They can't make up their minds. They waver back and forth in everything they do. (James 1:8).*
2. Recognize the prescription: Obtain Wisdom (James. 1:5-6).
  - a. Step 1: Admit your need (James 1:5; Prov. 11:2).
  - b. Step 2: Ask for wisdom (James 1:5b; Prov. 2:6).
  - c. Step 3: Anticipate it (James 1:6; Heb. 11:6).
3. Recognize the promise: God will grant it (James 1:5).
  - a. Constantly
  - b. Liberally
  - c. Without finding fault

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