



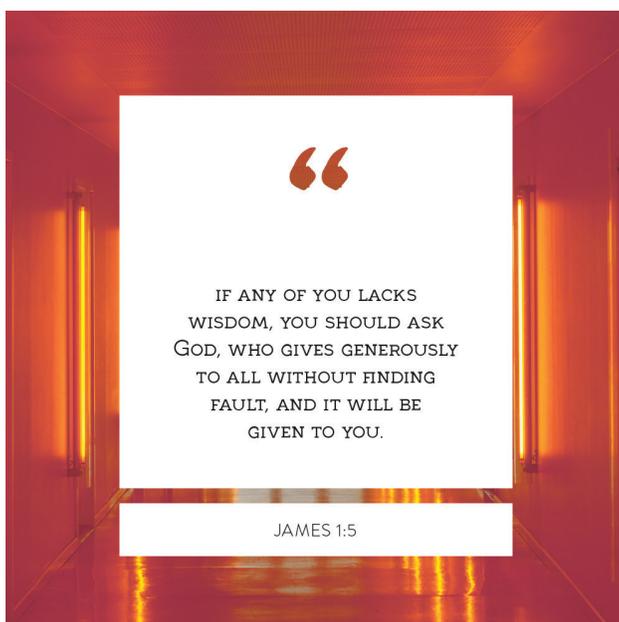
DAY 1



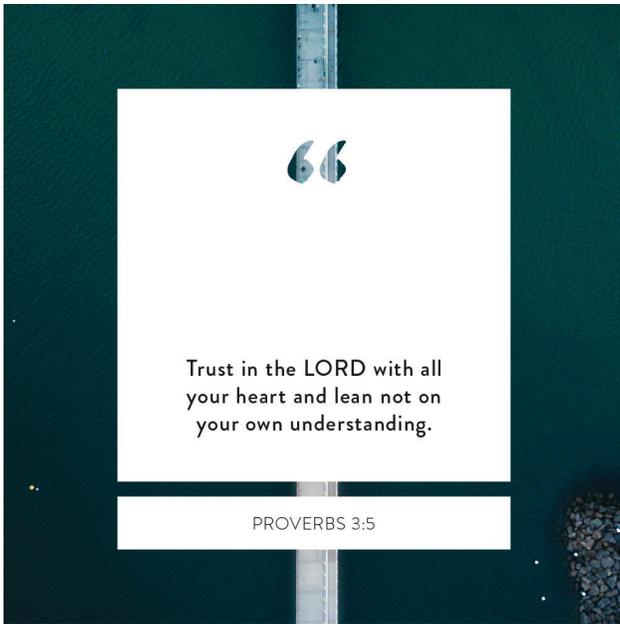
Does any part of this verse frustrate you? Is there a part of you that resents the idea of having to give thanks in ALL circumstances? It doesn't feel fair. What about the times when things aren't going the way we want them to? At face value, this verse can seem like a frustrating, if not downright insulting, piece of advice. But here's the catch: it's not really advice. This verse is really telling you a profound truth—that you're living in God's will. What does that mean? It means that right now, wherever you are, whatever you're experiencing, you're exactly where God wants you. All circumstances are in accordance with God's will. God wants to use every experience, situation, moment of waiting, to bring us closer to Him. The temptation, of course, is to run away—it's to hate him for our circumstances and to try to get away. But when we turn to Him,

He redeems our circumstances. That doesn't mean He fixes every problem we face, but He gives our problems a purpose. God's will in Christ Jesus is that you would know and love Him. That's His ultimate purpose. What needs to happen in your life for you to move that direction?

DAY 2



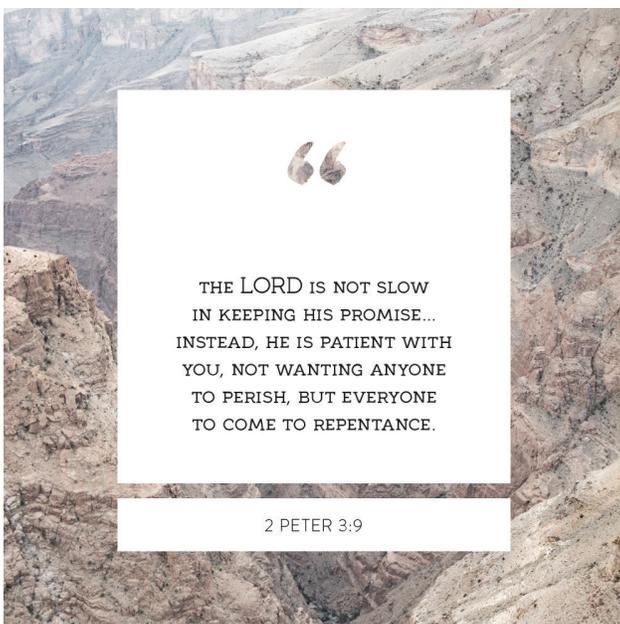
Do you ever feel like you have no idea what God is doing in your life? Does wisdom feel unattainable? Well, have you asked God for it? See, God doesn't delight in keeping us in the dark. He wants us to see what He's doing in our lives—He wants to enlighten us to His will. Sometimes, all we need to do is ask. Sometimes, all we need to do is pray and ask God to show us why He's doing what He's doing. In times of impatience and uncertainty, this prayer can be a breath of fresh air. This prayer can be the first step toward tossing away the burden of uncertainty and living in the freedom of knowing that God is working in all our circumstances. Pray toady and ask God for wisdom. Ask Him to open your eyes to see what He is doing and to give you a spirit that is willing to submit to His will and to be patient in the process.



DAY 3

This verse is hard. Now, if it said, “Trust in your own understanding,” that’d be much easier! We all have no problem doing that. Except, the problem is that our own understanding is limited. We don’t always know the full extent or reasoning behind our circumstances, especially when we’re having to wait for something. Times of waiting can be some of the most frustrating because we don’t always know the why. Why are we waiting? Why has this not happened yet? Why don’t we know what’s going on? We’ve all faced those questions and those times of doubts. What this verse is saying is that we don’t have to trust our limited understanding. Instead of being confused and full of doubt because we don’t know the bigger picture, we can lean on someone bigger. We can lean on God. He knows the why for our waiting, and His understanding surpasses all.

Pray and ask God to help you trust in Him. Tell Him you’re willing to lean on His understanding instead of your own and see how this submissive attitude affects your life.



DAY 4

Why hasn’t God come back yet? That has to be one of the biggest questions for Christians, right? We’re all waiting around for Him to return and to make all things new. We want Him to come and defeat sin and death and darkness once and for all. So, what is He waiting for? He’s waiting for people to repent and turn to Him. Right now, we’re living in a world that still has the opportunity to turn back to God. The people around us who don’t believe in Jesus still have time to change their minds. They still have time to turn their lives over to Him and to accept His offer of salvation. Every new day is another mercy, another period of grace where we still have time to turn to God. And that’s how God works in the waiting. There’s grace in the waiting. That doesn’t make it easier, nor does it make waiting less frustrating, but it does remind us that God is

working in the waiting. The process belongs to Him. Who are people in your life that need to hear about God before He comes back? What can you do with this day that He has given you?



DAY 5



Waiting is frustrating. There's just no getting around that. No matter what you're waiting on, the process of patience is never enjoyable. If you knew that everything was going to work out according to God's plan, would that change your attitude about waiting? It sounds almost too good to be true. It's almost impossible to believe that God works out every little thing for His purpose. But He does. That's the type of God He is. He didn't just set this world spinning and then step away. He's still actively involved in our daily lives, always working to help us see, know, and love Him. Is there a situation or circumstance in your life where you're having a hard time being patient and trusting God? Talk to Him about it. Let Him know your frustrations and ask Him to give you faith in His will.

NOTES, PRAYERS, AND THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK. . . .

A large, empty rectangular area intended for notes, prayers, and thoughts for the week.