

## “PRAY FOR WISDOM?”

(Jas. 1:5)

*“But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him,” Jas. 1:5.*

Almost all Christians react to the above scripture by thinking, “All I have to do, to get wisdom, is to ask God and he will give it to me **instantly**!” Then it is tried – asking God and seeing if he will give it, then there is disappointment – we did not get what we asked for in the way we thought it would come. I am wondering if there is something about this verse that we have not taken into consideration!

When I offer a **prayer** to God and include, “*11 Give us this day our daily bread,*” Matt. 6:11, do I expect to get it **instantly**? I remember the apostle Paul stating, “*28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need,*” Eph. 4:28. So, now I am thinking, if I want bread, I need to **get a job** and **go to work** so I might earn money to buy bread. **So, it is with the subject of wisdom!**

Do you realize you **cannot** teach wisdom? “*For Jehovah giveth wisdom: Out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding,*” Prov. 2:6. Should you desire your children have wisdom, you do not teach them wisdom; but rather, you encourage them to look at the mistakes of others, observe the consequences and then look at their own mistakes and draw conclusions there from, either good or bad. From these experiences our children will learn the consequences of positions taken, both good and bad, to produce happiness in life. “*13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom,*” Prov. 3:13.

Herein is the emphasis placed on acquiring wisdom in the book of Proverbs. The admonition to “**acquiring**” wisdom is repeated over and over in the book of Proverbs. All of the emphasis that is placed on the “wayward woman,” and the quick sayings that will have *either* good or bad results should be considered and used as a standard to live by and thus produce a life of wisdom. “*6 Go to the ant thou sluggard; Consider her ways and be wise,*” Prov. 6:6.

God has endowed man with the **ability to perceive wisdom** and make it a part of his life. The pioneer preachers used to illustrate such with a team of horses and a man guiding the horses pulling a wagon. The horses represented knowledge, the man directing the horses was wisdom; so, wisdom directing knowledge got the wagon, filled with whatever, to its destination. In this illustration one can see God working with man and man working with God and there are responsibilities to both parties. Man cannot expect something for nothing. There must be a certain effort put forth to acquire wisdom.

When then a man prays for wisdom, he begins to make an effort to observe what others are doing and the consequences of their endeavors. He looks at his own mistakes and learns from what happened to him; thus, “*we ask God for wisdom and he gives it,*” through a lot of effort on our part and the support of God. “*For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray and make request for you, that ye may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,*” Col. 1:9.

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