

God's Generous Gift of Wisdom

James 1:5-8

1. **A Detected Deficiency of Wisdom** (v.5a)

The clearer that a person comprehends the unmasked glory of God, the more clearly will that same person understand his or her own shortcomings (cf. Ex. 20:18-21; Isa. 6:5; Rev. 1:17). There is a vast difference between human wisdom and godly wisdom (Jam. 3:13-18). Godly wisdom begins with a fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7) and therefore only Christians are able to begin to understand the wisdom of God (cf. 1 Cor. 1:18; 2:6-8).

2. **A Confident Petition for Wisdom** (vs.5b-6a)

Christians are commanded to pray at all times (Eph 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:17). The Lord desires us to continually bring our cares to Him and not to lose heart (Luke 18:1). God is a good Father who desires to give good things to His children (Matt. 7:7-12; Luke 11:1ff). The gifts and requests that God grants are always in harmony with His character and His will (cf. John 14:13-14). Asking for wisdom is not merely a religious incantation which then forces God to respond where He would otherwise not (cf. Luke 18:1-8). Asking God for wisdom while believing in Him and believing that He will grant this request is necessary for receiving godly wisdom.

3. **An Insufficient Request for Wisdom** (vs.6b-8)

The doubting that James warns against is not the struggle in experiencing a conflict in the flesh with sin (Rom. 7:14ff; Gal 5:17). It is the doubt of a person who is of two minds about what is true. His life is spiritually unstable because he is not solely building his life upon the Lord (cf. Matt. 7:24-27). The instruction and encouragement of the local church is vital to assist Christians in moving from double-minded doubting and into single-minded trust (cf. Eph. 4:14; Jam. 4:8).