

NEWS AND VIEWS
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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

I remember Granny's supper. It was there for me. Or at least it always has been. I took for granted that it would be there when I was ready for it...after I had finished with my playing around on the farm. Then one evening I learned a hard lesson. Oh, I had heard her call us boys in for supper. But we were busy trying to squeeze the last of the daylight out of the day. So we ignored her until it became too dark to play. When we came into the kitchen, the table was cleared and dishes were being washed.

“Granny, where's our supper?” I asked. As I asked the question, I could see the dogs in the backyard, eating what appeared to be scraps from the table.

“Son, it was here for you,” she sadly said.

Often we are faced with decisions that require wisdom beyond our capacity and we delay coming to place where wisdom is found. How many times have I prayed as a last resort, knowing while I am praying that I should have sought God sooner as a first response? How many times have I waited to come to the Lord until I was good and ready...and missing the fact that He is always good...and always ready.

The good news is that we can ask God for wisdom. This passage says so. If our pride keeps us from asking God for wisdom, our pride is keeping us from God. Pride always will. The writer of the book of James talked a lot about wisdom. He thought it was something that we need. Do you need wisdom? Or do you have all the answers? Consider these thoughts with me.

I. WE ARE NEVER WISER THAN WHEN WE KNOW WE LACK WISDOM. The person that knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool. But the person who knows not, and knows that he knows not, is teachable. When we admit that we lack wisdom, we are ready to receive it. And God is ready to give it.

II. WHEN WE KNOW WE LACK WISDOM, WE CAN KNOW WHERE IT'S FOUND. The next logical step after acknowledging our need for wisdom and admitting our lack of it is to find out where wisdom is found. God is the source of wisdom. Wisdom is applied knowledge. It is not only knowing the right thing to do, it is knowing how to do it and doing it. It is not only knowing what to say, but knowing when to say it or when not to say it. Only God has the wisdom to use in many different situations. It seems pretty wise to ask Him for wisdom.

III. THE WISEST REQUEST WE CAN MAKE IS FOR WHAT WE KNOW WE NEED. *If any man lacks wisdom...seems that could mean **since** any man lacks wisdom.* From a fallen human perspective it seems to me that every man lacks wisdom. When we are lacking, God is listening...if we are praying to Him. The Lord wants us to know His wisdom is abundantly available and sufficient for the asking. He wants us to sense our lack, our need, and be dependent on His provision. Like Granny's supper, it is surely there for us! Have you received wisdom lately beyond your own understanding? We might be praying about what we know we don't know but are you praying about what you think you know?

Wisdom...it is surely there for us...so will you tell others where to find it? The Lord doesn't make you sorry you asked...He gives wisdom generously...without reproach...you've gotta love a God like that!

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam