



How Do We Get Wisdom?

Here is a question that the Bible directly answers in scripture. In James 1:5, James writes, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James states that if someone wants wisdom, that he may ask God and God will give him wisdom. James doesn't, however, state "how" God gives wisdom; neither does James state that prayer is the **ONLY** way through which we can get wisdom. James simply says to ask for it if you lack it and God will do the giving. But how does God **give** wisdom?

In the past, God gave wisdom directly to those who were inspired. In Daniel 2:23, Daniel thanks God for the wisdom that God had miraculously given to Him. He says, "I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, **who hast given me wisdom and might**, and hast now made known unto me what we desired of thee; for thou hast made known unto us the king's matter." Peter also tells us that God had inspired Paul with wisdom to write his epistles in 2 Peter 3:15, 16: "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, **according to the wisdom given to him**, wrote unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unsted-

fast wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction." God also gave Jesus great wisdom prompting some to ask from where such wisdom originated: "And when the sabbath was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, Whence hath this man these things? and, **What is the wisdom that is given unto this man**, and what mean such mighty works wrought by his hands?" (Mark 6:2). Paul also wrote concerning miraculous wisdom that was given by the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:8: "**For to one is given through the Spirit the word of wisdom**; and to another the word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit." With the cessation of miraculous gifts (1 Corinthians 13:8-10) also came the cessation of miraculous wisdom. Does God give wisdom directly today? One might just as well argue that God gives knowledge directly today as he would that God gives wisdom directly today.

However, God does give wisdom in other ways. Just as God once gave knowledge directly by inspiration, which knowledge is now contained within His word, so also God, who gave wisdom by inspiration, has also left much wisdom for us in His word. The writer of the book of Proverbs states plainly that if one desires to know wisdom, that he should study that book. Proverbs 1:1-

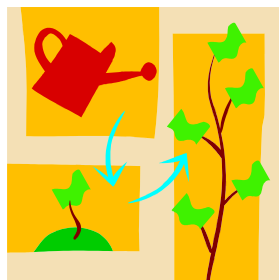
3 state: "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; **To know wisdom** and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; **To receive the instruction of wisdom**, justice, and judgment, and equity..." Paul also spoke concerning the wisdom that was revealed through the gospel in 1 Corinthians 6:7, "But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery**, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory." Finally, Paul teaches that within the mystery of Christ "are hid **all the treasures of wisdom** and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

Are there other ways in which God makes wisdom known? Yes. In Ephesians 3:10 Paul writes that God makes known His wisdom through the church. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church **the manifold wisdom of God**." We also may gain wisdom through our cumulative lifetime experiences. If we believe that all things work together for good for the Christian (Romans 8:28), then God may also use "all things" to give wisdom as well.

God gives wisdom! What a great and wonderful blessing. May we ever look for and expect the wisdom of God in our lives.

Kevin Cauley

Marks of Spiritual Maturity — Mike Riley



In 2 Peter 3:18, the apostle Peter stated regarding spiritual growth, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

As Christians, we are obligated to grow spiritually as indicated by the above verse from 2 Peter. Paul condemned the church in Corinth because they had failed to to on toward maturity in the faith (1 Cor. 3:1-3). The Hebrew Christians were also chastised for not growing spiritually in the knowledge of God (Heb. 5:12-14).

God is obviously displeased if we as His children are not maturing by acquiring a knowledge of God (2 Tim. 2:15) and thus growing spiritually (2 Pet. 3:18). Let us identify some marks of spiritual maturity:

- The ability to control anger and settle differences without violence or destruction (Gen. 13:1-8).

- Patience - The willingness to miss immediate pleasure in favor of long-term gain (Heb. 11:24-26).

- Perseverance - The ability to continue in a task or a situation in spite of heavy opposition and discouraging setbacks (1 Cor. 15:58).

- The capacity to face unpleasantness and frustration, discomfort and defeat, without complaint or collapse (1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9).

- Humility - Being big enough to say, "I was wrong". And when in the right, the spiritually mature person does not need the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so" (Lk. 15:11-32).

- The ability to make a decision and follow through with it. The immature spend their lives exploring endless possibilities and

then do nothing (Matt. 25:24-30; Jam. 1:22-25).

Conclusion

Are we mature in the faith? Do the above statements describe us? If not, we need to immediately begin to do what we can to mature in the faith by maturing in the Word - the source of saving faith (Heb. 4:12; cf. Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

"God is obviously displeased if we as His children are not maturing by acquiring a knowledge of God (2 Tim. 2:15) and thus growing spiritually (2 Pet. 3:18). "



Bible Studies for the week of January 9th, 2005

AM Sermon....A Pillar of Cloud by Day, A Pillar of Fire By Night
 Scripture Reading..... Nehemiah 9:19-21
 PM Sermon.....Questions and Answers
 Scripture Reading..... N/A
 Sunday Class The Book of Hebrews
 Wednesday Class..... Lessons on the Cross

Kevin's Korner

Well, the big week has finally arrived. Tuesday morning, earlier than I am accustomed to rising, around 4:30 AM, we will be making our trek to Harrison so that little Eddie may be delivered into this great big old world. The doctor estimates that he is going to be around eight pounds. I think he may be a little larger than that. We shall see. My parents have arrived and are present, even as I am typing this article. Mary Lynn's parents, we are expecting to arrive late Monday evening. Needless to say, with the birth and Mary Lynn being in the hospital for a few days and with both sets of parents coming, I'm going to be one busy guy for a few days. Please pray for Mary Lynn, Eddie, my family that are traveling during this time, my kids, and for me as well during this time of joy and happiness.

Let me also say "thank

you" for all of the wonderful gifts that you gave to Mary Lynn and the baby last week during the "shower." Mary Lynn brought several things home and you were so generous. I also want to thank each one that gave a gift, though not necessarily at the shower itself. It really is a joy to be among a congregation that displays such wonderful affection and love. We really do appreciate you so much in all that you do and are continuing to do for us in our work here at the church.

As I mentioned, I am going to be busy and while I am planning on preaching next Sunday, my schedule is not going to be what it normally is. I don't believe that I will be in the office very much next week at all. If you need to get a hold of me, you may just want to call the hospital and ask for Mary Lynn's room. We told the hospital to go ahead and put calls through for those who ask. Other-

wise, you can leave a message on my machine at home or at work. I may not get to them any time soon, however, so you should probably only do that if it isn't urgent.

While I don't think that anyone will be at the house on Tuesday, there will be some there on Wednesday and following. We are going to take the kids out of school on Tuesday so that they can be in the hospital with mom and their new brother, but they will be going back to school on Wednesday.

May God bless each of you this week as our weekly events transpire and I should be able to get announcement info to you for Wednesday night's Bible Study and devotional.



"It really is a joy to be among a congregation that displays such wonderful affection and love. We really do appreciate you so much in all that you do and are continuing to do for us in our work here at the church."

Records for the week of January 2nd, 2004

Sunday Bible Class	54
Sunday AM Worship.....	72
Sunday PM Worship.....	55
Wednesday Night Study.....	53
Contribution.....	\$1686.59
Budget.....	\$1778.13



Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please keep the following in your prayers: Joanne Alvard, Mary Lynn Cauley and baby, Janice Keck, Rusty Windle.
- Please remember our shut-ins: Curtis and Opal Hull, Edith Mischler.
- Our monthly potluck is next Sunday afternoon. Please make your plans to join us for this meal.
- Tonight is our monthly question and answer session. Please bring your Bibles and be ready to study!
- There will be an elders and deacons meeting after services this evening.
- January has five Sundays, so at the end of this month we will have our monthly singing at the nursing home. Please make your plans to join us.
- We are updating our directory. If you have updates, see Rusty Windle.
- For those who wish to host a youth devotional, the sign up list is in the back.
- Our pantry item is: Laundry Detergent.



Welcome!

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	January 9th, 2005	January 16th, 2005
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bill Fort	Bruce Foster
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Leon Duncan
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Dan Hand
	Raymond Kimes	Rusty Windle
(assist)	Brandon Foster	John Gass
	Ray Duncan	Irving Hand
Closing Prayer	Jerry Roller	Dan Hand
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Bob Phillips
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Brent Moore
Lord's Table	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
	Jack Gentry	Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	Jerry Roller	John Gass
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Quigley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Brandon Foster
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Leon Duncan
Closing Prayer:	Brandon Foster	Bob Phillips

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