06 November 2026

Too late for wisdom?



True wisdom is both very valuable and very rare.

King Solomon was the wisest man of all time. God promised him and gave him great wisdom. 1 Kings chapter 3 records the promise.

> "Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you" (12).

The next chapter records the fulfillment of that promise.

After Solomon surveyed some of the great paradoxes, extremes and limits we all have and face in the book of Ecclesiastes, in chapter 7 he testified,

> "I tested all this with wisdom, and I said, 'I will be wise,' but wisdom was far from me. What has been is remote and very mysterious. Who can discover it?'" (23-24).

You may identify with that. No matter how old you are, you may think, "I've tried and tried, but wisdom is far from me! Perhaps its too late for me to be wise."

We need to clarify our terms. Human wisdom is the ability to use knowledge, experience and understanding to make good decisions. Solomon was taking about human wisdom in Ecclesiastes chapter 7. He learned the lesson that time and experience can increase our knowledge, but do not guarantee increasing in true wisdom.

God's wisdom is His gift of seeing things as He does, as they really are, and then making good, God-honoring decisions.

Many of us are familiar with verses 5 through 8 in James chapter 1. James writes,

> "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

The first thing to note is that there are several kinds of questions in the structure of the language of the New Testament. The one James uses here expects a positive response, a "Yes" answer. So we could state James' question as, "If any of you lacks wisdom, *and you do,* let him ask of God." Just in case there was any doubt, all of us need God's wisdom.

Then, this is God's word, this is His promise to generously give wisdom to every believer. *It is never too late to receive this gift from God!* God tells us it refers to *any* of us.

Now think about the combination of asking for and receiving God's wisdom. We are to pray, to ask God to give us wisdom. Literally it says " let him be asking." We are to have a continual pattern of asking God for wisdom. In every day, in each moment and circumstance.

James also tells us how to ask and how not to ask God for wisdom. It must be in faith, trusting that God will give us the wisdom we need. It must not be with any doubting. Doubting is not truly or fully believing God will give you the wisdom you need. If we doubt, James tells us, we are being "double-minded." *Double-minded* refers to trying to go two ways at once: thinking God will, but then again that God will not give us the wisdom we need; knowing we need God's wisdom, but actually relying on our own. Just as God's promise of His wisdom is certain, so is the result of doubting that God will give us wisdom when we ask in faith, "that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord."

We know the story of Abraham. He waited in faith for twenty-five long years for God to fulfill His promise of giving him a son to build a great nation. The apostle Paul tells us,

> "yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform" (Romans 4:20-21).

The good news is that you and I do not have to wait for years to receive God's wisdom! Nor does it depend on your past, nor yet your age. He will give you His wisdom today, and each day. It is not too late for you to receive and grow in God's wisdom!

Pastor Lyle