



There are many things within the Word of God that are difficult to understand—even Peter acknowledged as much (cf. 2 Pet. 3:15-16). Nevertheless, the same man admonishes us in the Spirit to grow in our knowledge of the Lord (cf. 2 Pet. 3:18). How wonderful it is that our God is willing to aid us in our understanding

that we may grow in knowledge and wisdom! But there is a condition as we've noticed, namely, that we must seek Him (Heb. 11:6). James also gives another condition when asking for wisdom: **“But let him ASK IN FAITH, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways”** (Jas. 1:6-8 emphasis mine). We must *believe* God is willing and able to help us, and give us wisdom and understanding. Brothers and sisters, as we endeavor to gain a better understanding of God's word, let us not forget the comfort of His promise to help us. We need only to ask, and ask in faith.



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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

13.25

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

June 19
2011



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Jason Garcia

Let Him Ask God

By Jason Garcia

We live in an age when the flow of information has been so accelerated, that a world of knowledge is literally at our fingertips. Some people can spend a dozen years and thousands of dollars in top universities pursuing greater knowledge and learning. Unfortunately, as a result, many of those folks have become condescending toward the uneducated and, by and large, academia has gained a reputation of arrogance and pomposity. Even so, we can find many folks who share that attitude without having any formal education. What does this tell us? Regardless of culture, gender, family, and education anyone can become overconfident in their knowledge to the point that they become wise in their own eyes. What does the Scripture have to say about true knowledge and wisdom? Can anyone attain it?

We find that the Lord taught us by His Spirit that the path to true knowledge begins with our attitude. Within the opening verses of the book of Proverbs Solomon says, **“The fear**

of the Lord is the BEGINNING of knowledge” (Pro. 1:7 NASB, emphasis mine). If we are to receive true knowledge then we must have a heart that reveres the God of Heaven. If we have the proper attitude and reverence toward God, then naturally we will have the proper attitude and reverence toward His Word—the only source of truth in the world (cf. Jn. 17:17). The Spirit inspired Paul



Olsen Park church of Christ

to teach, “**For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men**” (1 Cor. 1:25 ESV). So, no matter what the world may say to convince us that they possess greater knowledge than God’s Word, Paul shows us the superiority of God’s wisdom when compared to the best man has to offer. God also spoke the same way through His prophet Isaiah saying, “**For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts**” (Is. 55:9).

However, we should not conclude that all knowledge from the world is bad or detrimental to our faith. But we must filter all knowledge through Scripture, and recognize God’s Word as the inerrant standard. People may have made great progress in medicine, chemistry, and other sciences, but if science ever offers us something that doesn’t harmonize with the Word of God, we must reject their “knowledge”. The same is certainly true of human philosophies, civil laws, and moral standards—if, at any time, they contradict God’s Word, we must reject them.

How is it that we can distinguish between what the world offers as wisdom and what the Scripture teaches to be wisdom? James has the answer:

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the

truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere (Jas. 3:14-17).

He gives a number of key indicators to help us determine what kind of wisdom we’re seeking. He associates worldly wisdom with evil spirits, selfishness, and temporal things. In contrast, the qualities of heavenly wisdom are associated with an attitude that is peace-loving and willing to reason through things. Incidentally, all the qualities mentioned of heavenly wisdom are generally touted by the world as being their own qualities and a product of *their* efforts. The Spirit clearly teaches however, that this wisdom is only from above. James will also reveal to us one of the ways we can attain this wisdom. Earlier in his letter he says, “**If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him**” (Jas. 1:5). First, we must be willing to take the initiative and ask God for the wisdom that only He can give. Throughout all of Scripture we see this principle repeated—that God is not interested in folks unwilling to take the initiative and

seek Him. Our Lord, while on Earth, said, “**Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened**” (Matt.7:7-8). Jesus expects all men to make an effort and search for God, seek His truth, and His wisdom. Just as James teaches that God gives wisdom to those who ask, we see he Lord fulfill this truth as He taught men during His life. Whenever there was a sincere question concerning His teaching, specifically a parable, the Lord was willing to explain the meaning behind His teaching to any who inquired.