

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin  
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

January 30, 2022

# God-Given Wisdom

By Derek Long

When we think about an individual who possessed God-given wisdom, it is likely we think about Solomon. When Solomon becomes king, God appears to him in a dream at night and says, "Ask! What shall I give you?" (1 Kings 3:5, NKJV). Solomon's request was, "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" (1 Kings 3:9, NKJV). God was pleased with Solomon's request and gave him, "a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you" (1 Kings 3:10-14, NKJV). Solomon's God-given wisdom helped him rule over the nation of Israel. Solomon's wisdom is recorded for us in the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon to help us learn important truths about God's will. Solomon possessed God-given wisdom.

Another individual we read about in the Bible who possessed God-given wisdom was Ezra. In Ezra 7:25 Artaxerxes, king of Persia, instructed Ezra in the following words, "And you, Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are in the region beyond the River; all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know them" (NKJV). Here is a king of Persia who recognizes and acknowledges the God-given wisdom possessed by Ezra. Ezra's God-given wisdom will enable him to deal with problems and challenges among the people who had returned to Jerusalem from the captivity.

A question which comes to mind when we think about the concept of God-given wisdom is how does one acquire God-given wisdom. While many things might be said about how to acquire God-given wisdom, we want to examine a few of those ways in the remainder of this article. First, God-given wisdom is acquired by asking God for wisdom. James 1:5-8 teaches us, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways" (NKJV). Solomon asked God for wisdom and received it. Do we ask God for wisdom? Asking God for wisdom demonstrates we recognize our need for wisdom, we understand true wisdom comes from God, and we are acknowledging our dependence upon God for wisdom. God desires to give good things to those who ask Him (Matthew 7:7-11). Wisdom certainly is a good thing God will give to those who ask Him. Second, God-given wisdom begins with fearing God. Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (NKJV). A failure to acknowledge God and treat Him with the proper respect and reverence He deserves will keep us from acquiring God-given wisdom. There are people in the world who consider themselves to be wise but fail to honor God as they should. Romans 1:18-23 points out people like that are in reality not wise but fools. Third, God-given wisdom only comes to those who are willing to listen to rebuke and correction. Proverbs 9:7-9 says, "He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning" (NKJV). How do we respond when others or the word of God corrects and rebukes us? If we reject correction and rebuke, we will not possess God-given wisdom. A person who thinks he already knows everything and cannot be taught is not the type of person who will possess God-given wisdom. Do we have a teachable spirit so we may obtain God-given wisdom? Fourth, God-given wisdom comes from God's word. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 speaks about how wisdom which comes from God comes as He reveals His mind

to us. God revealed His mind through the Holy Spirit to the inspired writers of the Scriptures. Today, we can acquire God-given wisdom by studying the revelation which came from God through His inspired apostles and prophets. Ezra possessed God-given wisdom as we have already pointed out. Where did Ezra acquire this God-given wisdom? The Bible teaches us Ezra, "was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given" (Ezra 7:6, NKJV). "Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel" (Ezra 7:10, NKJV). Ezra was described as, "expert in the words of the commandments of the Lord, and of His statutes to Israel" (Ezra 7:11, NKJV). Ezra's God-given wisdom came, at least in part, because he had studied the revelation God had given to His people. If we want God-given wisdom today, let's be people who are diligent to study the word of God to acquire the wisdom delivered to us by God (2 Timothy 2:15).