

*<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. James 1:5 NIV*

One of the things we either take for granted, or do not take advantage of is that if we ask, God who loves us is more than willing to guide us in the right direction. The reasons we might not do this vary. First of all we may think that we are unworthy of asking. God is so much greater we think than us, so much else to do, why bother? We also might feel that our not being close to God either because of something we've done wrong, or something we may have neglected to do in our daily walk with God disqualifies us as well.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The Bible tells us that we are God's children by faith in Christ alone. There is nothing we can do to "placate" God. Christ by his death and resurrection has opened access to God, and it is in his name we can confidently go before God. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament goes to great lengths with a group of Christians who wanted to go back to a faith that approached God through sacrifices to let them know of their access to God before Christ:

*"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" Hebrews 4:16*

While all this probably sounds good in theory, you still might be skeptical either because you've tried it or you felt you didn't an answer or the answer you wanted. There are two perspectives to keep in mind in this process. First is God's timing. I can tell you of things I prayed about at one time were answered years later. One time I prayed that I'd like to live in certain part of the country. Years passed before that prayer was answered, and when I remembered this I praised God for his faithfulness. Secondly, the answer may be "no". This is an answer we may not like, but it is an answer and is God's wisdom. Sometimes here again, when time has passed after the "no", we get some insight as to why God said "no".

So when you need wisdom, insight, or direction for decisions and solving problems, take James up on his direction. We have nothing to fear, to paraphrase a familiar television commercial , you are in "good hands" with God.

Pr. John