

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WISDOM

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Is the Holy Spirit limited in the work of sanctification to the use of the word as we have it in the Bible? If so, the wisdom for which we are told to pray is excluded. "If any man lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). Wisdom is the proper application of knowledge. We can get knowledge from the Bible. All the knowledge that is available, that pertains to life and godliness (II _Pet.1:3), is to be gained from a study of the Bible; there is no other source. But wisdom comes to us from God in answer to our prayers. Does wisdom have anything to do with our sanctification? James is teaching us how we "may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing" (v.4). This word "perfect" means mature, fullgrown spiritually. This is intimately connected with our sanctification. So our sanctification is brought about by our study of the Bible, and by prayer. How God gives us this wisdom in answer to our prayers we are not told, but since it is not through study of the Bible, it must be in the realm of providence. God is not limited as to the ways and means he can use in giving us wisdom, but the fact that wisdom comes in answer to our prayers is proof that it does not come through the word. Did you ever pray for God to give the preacher wisdom? to "give him a ready recollection of the things he has prepared for this occasion"? If God answered that prayer, he did not answer it through the word. (Roy Lanier, Sr., TIMELESS TRINITY FOR CEASELESS CENTURIES, pg. 385)