

1 Kings 3:11-12

Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you."

When you ask a child what they want for their birthday, what do they usually say?

"Wait, is this a trick question?" You may be thinking, *"obviously they would tell you what they want."*

Which is the correct answer. But let's say they answered with, *"I would like a bike for my birthday"*, and not just any bike, as they give you more specifics.

Maybe a boy would say, *"I would like a bike that I can go mountain biking on, going through rough terrain and doing jumps and trick with."*

Or a girl may say, *"I would like a beach cruiser, where I can rider along the beach or on smooth bike paths."*

But have you ever noticed what they don't say when you ask them what they want for their birthday?

"Mom and Dad, I would like a bike for my birthday, and you can get it at this store, but you also need to both work a job making at least \$15 an hour to buy that bike and you have to work 10 hours of overtime to get the money to buy me my bike that I want and..."

Now I know that sounds crazy, yet how many do that when they pray. They not only tell God what they want or need, but they also give Him directions on how to do it. I was talking to my brother in law the other day, and I told him that I have been praying for years for full time ministry in teaching God's word, recording worship music, and writing Christian novels. He asked how I could do that, where would the money come from?

I simply told him, *"I don't know, I just asked God for what I would like and it's His job to decide if He wants to give it to me, and how He is going to provide for my family and me if He does."*

Even in today's verses. God asked Solomon, ***"Ask! What shall I give you?"*** **1 Kings 3:5b** and Solomon answered God with what he wanted, which was a heart and the wisdom to lead God's people Israel. But if you read the account, Solomon never told God how to do it, because it seemed like an impossible task or request, yet that did not stop Solomon from replying to God with what was in his heart, and that was to lead Israel the way God wanted them to be lead.

One other aspect of this is that a child does not respond with *"Oh, I know I am not deserving, but I would really like a bike for my birthday."* And when the parents gives that bike to the child, they don't say, *"Well, you don't deserve this, but we got you a bike anyway."*

No, first off it's not up to the child to decide if he or she deserves the bike or not, the parent will make that determination, and it's not always about deserving it, but a parent will give to the child out of love. So, how much more does God give out of love, and it's not up to us to decide if we deserve or earned it. God will make that decision, and He will give to us out of love, not whether we deserve it, or earned it.

God answered Solomon's request, with the way only God could do. "***I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.***" No man could had come up with this answer, only God could. That's why, my request may seem impossible.. for man. But, for God, it's a piece of cake.

† **Luke 1:37** *For with God nothing will be impossible.*

So go to God in prayer with your requests for others and yourself, and when you do, leave it as that, a request to God, not instructions to God on how you think He should do it. Because if God does it your way, you will end up with a unicycle that has a flat tire, instead of a cool 15 speed mountain bike.

† **Genesis 18:14a** *Is anything too hard for the LORD?*

† **Matthew 7:7 (MSG)** *Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need.*

† **Job 40:2 (KJV)** *Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it.*