The Cross and Crown

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Can you trust your eyes?

I think that most of us tend to see ourselves as pretty savvy and to think that experience has taught us well through the years. And, in most cases, we get pretty along well, following our own good judgment. However, often in life, it doesn't come down to our wisdom and experience. The unfortunate fact is that we have an adversary who's much more crafty than we are.

All the way back in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve got in trouble because they trusted their own eyes (Eve "saw that the fruit was good for food and pleasing to the eye.") rather than God's wisdom. Joshua and his leaders made an even more grave mistake: They never even bothered to seek God's wisdom.

When the Israelites' neighbors, the



Gibeonites, came to them pretending that they were from far away, their story seemed reasonable enough and easily verifiable. The Israelites examined the Gibeonites' provisions – but they did not consult with God.

We may think that we're wise enough to sniff out deception when we're faced with it, but the people of this world are remarkably adept at trickery. This may be why Jesus told his disciples to be as cunning as wolves (and as harmless as lambs). But isn't it wonderful to know that we don't need to rely on our own cunning? God offers us free access to his limitless wisdom! Why would we even try to make major decisions without taking advantage of such an amazing resource?

Perhaps one of the most underrated promises in the Bible comes from James: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." We don't have to go it alone!

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God."

The last of a three-part series

Thanks for your Prayers!

We are so grateful to all of you who lift us up in prayer on a daily or weekly basis. God continues to amaze us with what he's doing on our behalf, and we know that it's because of your prayers!

Please join us in praying for

- physical needs among our leaders and their families,
- God to call people to missions during next month's missions convention, and
- the students, families, teachers and staff of Spring Garden Academy.

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please do let us know.

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^{*} Important: If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we understand! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

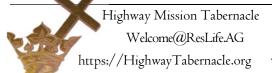
If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

Did you know?

Almost three out of every four Canadians live south of the 49th Parallel, the generally agreed border between the United States and Canada. In fact, about 90% of Canadians live within 100 miles of the United States.

(In case you're wondering, only about 12% of Americans live within 100 miles of Canada.)

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." (Proverbs 16:1)



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