



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

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One of the first decisions that Joshua made as leader of the Israelites ended in a disaster that plagued the nation for generations. When the Gibeonites, a people whom God had forbidden the Israelites from making a treaty with, came to them pretending to be people from a distant land, Joshua and his team, relying on their best judgment, got suckered into a bad decision. The Bible makes clear where they went wrong: They did a thorough investigation, but they never consulted God. (See Joshua 9:14)

Recently, one of my mentors presented me with a scenario and asked me what I would do. When I told him that I would pray, he asked, "And then what?" I understood the point that he was making, and I didn't want to sound flippant, so I didn't give him my sincere answer, "Whatever God tells me!"

I get it. We Christians have a way of saying, "I'll pray" to get ourselves off the hook without having to do anything. Honestly, though, that wasn't how I meant it.

If there's anything that I've learned in my six decades on this earth, it's that charging forward under my own wisdom and best judgment usually ends in disaster, just as it did for Joshua and the Gibeonites. Fortunately, though, I don't have to go it alone. In the book of James (1:5), God offers his children the greatest deal outside of salvation itself: Anyone who lacks wisdom can go to God who gives it generously, without finding fault. We can (and must!) seek God's wisdom for *every* situation. He'll never ask why we're bothering him with the question or send us away, saying that we should be able to work it out on our own.

If we're not receiving God's wisdom, it's not because he's unwilling, but only because we haven't bothered to ask.

The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. *(I Corinthians 1:25)*

Thanks for Praying!





We acknowledge our need for God's wisdom! Please join with us in praying for this and for:

- our summer ministries, including Alpha and our outreach programs to children and youth,
- God to send laborers and leaders with a love for our neighbors and our neighborhood,
- the academy and the upcoming school year, and
- multiplication!

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 with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

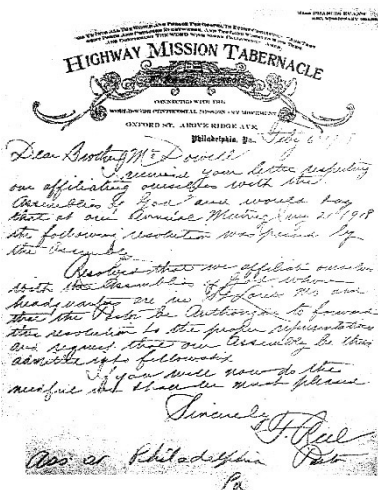
We really do love hearing from you! Every message and phone call helps us keep going!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, 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, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did you know?



At Highway's annual business meeting in 1918, the membership passed a resolution to affiliate with the Assemblies of God. The handwritten letter informing the A/G of the decision, signed by Highway's first past, Frederick Reel, asserts in its letterhead, "Connected with the world-wide Pentecostal Missionary movement."

Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Philippians 2:2



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