

Letter: Ask God to give our leaders wisdom during this pandemic

April 3, 2020

God's promise to give wisdom when it is requested has sustained many believers. The go-to verse is James 1:5—*"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 routinely request personal wisdom. Now, it is time to pray urgently that leaders at every level will have that divine gift.

They are being squeezed in this vice: Keep restrictions to limit the virus and its consequences, or ease or lift regulations to revive a country. Each horn of this dilemma is deadly.

On the one hand is incalculable economic damage: dwindling retirement accounts, industries suffering, small businesses shuttering, unemployment numbers spiking, overburdened healthcare, the hiatus in education, charitable and religious organizations dismantling and the strain on every pillar of government stability. The aftershocks of the quake's epicenter are the social and emotional tremors just now shaking us: strained marriages, child abuse, rampant increases in drug and alcohol use, suicides and explosive anxiety levels.

On the other side of the scale is only one thing: human life.

Let's jettison the accusation that those who are for relaxing the restraints are murderers. It's not that simple.

Let's repent of all finger-pointing and accusations and do the most important and nonpartisan thing—pray.

Pray God will do for every leader at every level what he did for King Solomon. *"God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore"* (1 Kings 4:29).

Bob Mize, Chaplain
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