

Life Lessons

A Walk with the Wise

Solomon wrote: “*He that walks with wise men shall be wise*” (Prov. 13:20). **How big is your God?** This is a question a wise man or woman is willing to address.

Consider this true story. John Angell James was pastor of the Carr’s Lane Congregational Church in Birmingham, England for fifty years. He said, he prayed silently every time he stood to preach that God would bring the right successor for the work of what was called “*the finest church in the world.*”

James, a prolific writer, penned the best seller, **The Anxious Inquirer after Salvation.** Over 200,000 copies were sold in the first five years. One copy fell into the hands of an assistant schoolteacher in Andover. His name was Robert Dale and he was fourteen years old. James’ book led Dale to a personal salvation experience. Ten years later, in 1853, Dale was installed with James as the co-pastor of the great Carr’s Lane Church. Six years later Dale became the pastor. He served for thirty-six years.

So what are the essential *Life Lessons*?

- God hears the fervent prayer of righteous man and answers according to His perfect time and glorious plan. **PRAY.**
- Obedience to the leadership of the Holy Spirit is a vital part of God’s process for answering our prayer. What if James had never written the book that led to Dale’s conversion? James would have, in effect, blocked his own prayer request for a godly successor for his great church. **OBEY.**
- Patient perseverance is the only right response for a believer genuinely seeking to serve God. **TRUST GOD’S TIMING!**

Here is the key *Life Lesson*:

PRAY.

OBEY.

TRUST GOD’S TIMING!