

WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE

“To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit.” (1 Cor 12:8)

Solomon’s Respect for Wisdom

- 7 Therefore I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.
- 8 I preferred her to scepters and thrones,
and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her.
- 9 Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem,
because all gold is but a little sand in her sight,
and silver will be accounted as clay before her.
- 10 I loved her more than health and beauty,
and I chose to have her rather than light,
because her radiance never ceases.
- 11 All good things came to me along with her,
and in her hands uncounted wealth.
- 12 I rejoiced in them all, because wisdom leads them;
but I did not know that she was their mother.
- 13 I learned without guile and I impart without grudging;
I do not hide her wealth,
- 14 for it is an unfailing treasure for mortals;
those who get it obtain friendship with God,
commended for the gifts that come from instruction.

Solomon Prays for Wisdom

- 15 May God grant me to speak with judgment,
and to have thoughts worthy of what I have received;

for he is the guide even of wisdom
and the corrector of the wise.

16 For both we and our words are in his hand,
as are all understanding and skill in crafts.

17 For it is he who gave me unerring knowledge of what exists,
to know the structure of the world and the activity of the elements;

18 the beginning and end and middle of times,
the alternations of the solstices and the changes of the seasons,

19 the cycles of the year and the constellations of the stars,

20 the natures of animals and the tempers of wild animals,
the powers of spirits^a and the thoughts of human beings,
the varieties of plants and the virtues of roots;

21 I learned both what is secret and what is manifest,

22 for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me.

The Nature of Wisdom

There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy,
unique, manifold, subtle,
mobile, clear, unpolluted,
distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen,
irresistible, 23 beneficent, humane,
steadfast, sure, free from anxiety,
all-powerful, overseeing all,
and penetrating through all spirits
that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle.

24 For wisdom is more mobile than any motion;
because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things.

25 For she is a breath of the power of God,
and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty;

therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her.

26 For she is a reflection of eternal light,
a spotless mirror of the working of God,
and an image of his goodness.

27 Although she is but one, she can do all things,
and while remaining in herself, she renews all things;
in every generation she passes into holy souls
and makes them friends of God, and prophets;

28 for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.

29 She is more beautiful than the sun,
and excels every constellation of the stars.
Compared with the light she is found to be superior,

30 for it is succeeded by the night,
but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

WHY DO WE WANT WISDOM?

"for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her." Proverbs 8:11

HOW DO WE RECEIVE IT?

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." (1 Cor 1:19)

"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." James 1:5

Humility

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." Proverbs 11:2

The Imitation of Christ, Chapter 2: 'On Thinking Humbly of Oneself' (Thomas Kempis)

If it seemeth to thee that thou knowest many things, and understandest them well, know also that there are many more things which thou knowest not. Be not high-minded, but rather confess thy ignorance. Why desirest thou to lift thyself above another, when there are found many more learned and more skilled in Scripture than thou? ... To account nothing of oneself, and to think always kindly and highly of others, this is great and perfect wisdom.'

Intimacy of relationship- Trinity

"I pray that the Father of glory, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, would impart to you the riches of the Spirit of wisdom and the Spirit of revelation to know him through your deepening intimacy with him." (Ephesians 1:17)

Connection and Presence – God, Self and Others

"For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul." (Proverbs 2:10)

"So train your heart to listen when I speak and open your spirit wide to expand your discernment – then pass it on to your sons and daughters" (Proverbs 2:2)

Detachment

"If you consider yourself to be wise and one who understand the ways of God, advertise it with a beautiful, fruitful life guided by wisdom's gentleness. Never brag or boast about what you've done and you'll prove that you're truly wise. But if there is bitter jealousy or competition hiding in your heart, then don't deny it and try to compensate for it by boasting and being phony. For that has nothing to do with God's heavenly wisdom but can best be described as the wisdom of the world, both selfish and devilish." (James 3:13-15)

"As the heart becomes pure, which means undivided, it sees God". "Unless your heart is clear and your mind unattached, you can't hear that homing call – that internal still small voice" (CB)

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see the Kingdom of God." 6th Beatitude

Simplicity

Benedictine monk – Bruno Barnhart

"The problem with us human beings is that we prefer a manageable complexity to an unmanageable simplicity".

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." James 3:17

WHAT DO YOU THINK GETS IN THE WAY OF YOU RECEIVING WISDOM?