

Gift of Wisdom

All WISDOM comes from God. It is dispensed by the Holy Spirit upon request, or as needed by the receiver.

Just what is WISDOM? In the conventional, wisdom is the proper application of knowledge guided by understanding. The longer one lives and the more one experiences, is thought to be the food of wisdom. Mix in a good portion of learning and common sense then one is assumed to be in the possession of great wisdom which greatly benefits selected individuals, provided the dispenser of this wisdom is willing to share it..

How very different is the WISDOM given as a Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Contrary to the wisdom of the world, the Holy Spirit's Gift of WISDOM is the ability to see life from God's perspective and then to know the best course of action to take. It's the application of knowledge that God gives us. This WISDOM, used in everyday life, is what changes us from our old pre-converted ways to seeking pleasure in what's holy. This WISDOM is for the edification of God's people, given gently and with consideration for feelings, given efficaciously and in the spirit of His immeasurable love for us. We are surrounded by God's WISDOM. Of creation, PSALM 104:24 says...

O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In WISDOM You have made them all.

God's WISDOM permeates all of nature as is shown when God questions Job in JOB 38: 34-41. .

Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that an abundance of water may cover you? Can you send out lightening, that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are?' Who has put WISDOM in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart? Who can number the clouds by WISDOM?..... Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetites of the young lions..... Who provides food for the raven, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?.....

Who indeed causes the sun to rise then to set? Who orchestrates the seasons, colors the magnificent landscapes, fills the seas, lights the night skies with a myriad of celestial bodies. Who causes the rivers to flow and nourishing rains to fall? Who provides for all the world's creatures? And Who created man in His own image, then sent His own Son as expiation for His sins? Who loves us more than we can even begin to comprehend?

To receive this WISDOM, a supernatural Gift of the Holy Spirit, we need only ask in faith for it, being open and ready to receive it: as it says in JAMES 1:5,6.....

If any of you lacks WISDOM, let him ask of God, Who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea and tossed by the wind.

This Gift of WISDOM may come in a vision or a dream, in a still small voice or an audible one, in His Word, in prayer, in any number of ways. We should never underestimate the creativity of God or His perfect timing. Just know that if you ask, you will receive. And as I have learned, LISTENING attentively is an important component.

According to PROVERBS 9:10.....

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of WISDOM.....

PROVERBS 2:6 also says that.....

The Lord gives WISDOM; out of His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

So what has WISDOM to do with me in this present time? Without lingering on specific details, please know I am a sinner, who has many human weaknesses and failings, not the least of which is PRIDE. I've recently had a change in job assignment, having been placed according to my strengths, where my attention to detail, organizational skills, and efficiency would be of great use and a much needed commodity.

I read that same week that ‘If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans.’ Or as it says in PROVERBS 16:9

A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs His steps.

I should have started listening right then, instead of believing I had all the answers. But no, I had given the existing system much thought and knew I had the perfect plan for improvement. How could the present staff not see the WISDOM of my way? How could they not embrace my experience and solutions with appreciation and gratitude? I’m certain your answers would be as numerous as those of you sitting here tonight.

But allow me to share how the Lord spoke and chastened me. In addition to the daily readings, I was spending time in PROVERBS in preparation for creating an assignment and encouraging my 7th and 8th grade CCD students to seek God’s advice in His sacred Word. Little did I know that this particular lesson was for me? Did PROVERBS 9:12 refer to me or to my new office mates?

If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff you will bear it alone.

And to whom was He referring in PROVERBS 11:2

When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is WISDOM.

I believe I was the only one who saw the wisdom of MY way. My direct and forward approach did nothing but stir up resentment. A line was now drawn in the sand and resistance to change reached an apex. How could they be so stiff-necked? But was I humble enough to see the error of my way? Of course not, I was determined to be of use, even if it meant treading on toes and moving against the tide. But my loving Father would not have it so. I continued my reading and my heart was struck several more times in PROVERBS 3:12, and 4:1 which said:

Whom the Lord loves He corrects. And Hear my children the instruction of a Father, and give attention to know understanding.

And PROVERBS 4:7 which says:

WISDOM is the principal thing; therefore get WISDOM, and in all your getting, get understanding.

Finally, I was beginning to think of God’s role in this work change of mine, a role I neglected to acknowledge. Why would He send me here? Was I the one in need of change? Was it me that needed to grow and learn from these people?

PROVERBS 10:19 got my attention:

In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is WISE.

And hadn't I just disregarded and inadvertently disrespected my colleagues by coming in like a storm trooper ready to tackle an out dated system when in fact the one in place was functional and comfortable to them?

PROVERBS 12:1b couldn't be more direct, He who hates correction is stupid.

Or PROVERBS 18:2 which pointed out that

A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart.

OUCH, stupid and a fool? All in one day?

It was then my Supervisor (a sister in Christ) gave me a quick refresher in Workplace Diversity and differing work styles, reminding me also of Whom I was representing. Where was the gentleness and love of the Lord? OUCH, again.

Needless to say I had a cathartic moment at Mass that week, where I was brought down to my knees in remorse and repentance. I was cleansed by my own tears and resolved to make amends if I could. I was also reassured by PROVERBS 19:20 and 25:

LISTEN to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.

Rebuke one who has understanding and he will discern knowledge.

So imperfect I am, but without hope and help, I am not.

Come Holy Spirit, may we receive Your gift of WISDOM so that we may recognize God's action in our lives.