

We hear a lot these days about intelligence, knowledge, and information, but we hear a lot less about wisdom. Is it because we are severely lacking in wisdom? In the ancient story of the first Christmas, we read about ‘wise men’ who sought the Christ child and traveled a great distance to find him. How far will we go in search of Christ?

Traditionally; wisdom is characterized as feminine and carries the moniker of “Sophia.” She is described biblically as possessing great strength and the ability to capture hearts and minds. She is wise beyond measure and available to persons who seriously seek her. What is wisdom and what makes her so elusive?

Perhaps it is not that she is elusive, rather, many of us do not pursue her. We prefer to indulge pleasure instead of moral and ethical conduct. And while wisdom can be received freely, we can be tempted to satisfy our appetite for wealth and material goods.

In this special period of multiple challenges and unexpected changes, it is easy to overlook opportunities where wisdom resides. In fact, imposters can appear and present themselves as Sophia and lure us under their spell.

Solomon, son of David and successor to the throne as king of Israel, recognized the true source and value of wisdom. He points us in the direction of God. Solomon believed “the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.” Thus, we cannot acquire sagacious instruction without first acknowledging God and practicing the principles of sacred life.

Solomon had a dream in which God asked him what he wanted as the new king of Israel. He said, “Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern good and evil.” The story goes on to say God was so pleased with Solomon’s request that he was granted his wish. Solomon did not ask for long life, wealth, or power over his enemies. He only asked for wisdom and became the wisest person in the world.

There is no doubt Solomon was wise already since he had the wisdom to ask for more wisdom. If you were given one wish, what would you ask God to give you?

Wisdom is the clarity of truth inspired by God. There is only One Source to acquire it. It cannot be bought or bartered. Volumes of data and research will not make us wise. Intelligence and knowledge are very good, but they fall short of wisdom.

In these troubled times, wisdom is greatly needed. Wise people are needed. We are given the qualities of wisdom when we seek God first in our lives and practice our faith. It pleases God to endow us with the ability and resources to discern good and evil; and to love God with all our heart, mind and soul. Such reverence will result in us becoming wise.

-Pastor Art Cribbs