

Friday, July 31, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' ... Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people. ... Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you."

1 Kings 3: selected verses

Do you crave wisdom? Wisdom is not the same as knowledge. Wisdom is a way of thinking. It is the ability to think like God, even if only by a fraction. Solomon asked for the gift of wisdom soon after he became king. He knew the job to be a challenging one. If you ask me, Solomon already possessed a certain degree of wisdom for him to request wisdom in the first place. It's pretty amazing that when God tells Solomon to ask for ANYTHING he wanted to ask for, Solomon did not ask for material things or wealth or more power. God was proud of him for his request and decided to give him riches and honor as well.

Are you wise enough to know that you need wisdom for dealing with life? We all do. The neat thing is, we can ask God for wisdom and He will give it to us. Don't expect to be as wise as Solomon. God told Solomon that no one would ever be as wise as he would be. But you and I can become wiser than we are right now.

Wisdom will help to keep us out of unnecessary trouble. It will help us to make good and healthy decisions. It will help us to see beyond just the little things that are irritating us in life. Ultimately, wisdom gives us peace. The Bible says that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." That means that having a reverent relationship with God is the starting place of all wisdom. There can be no true wisdom if God is not at the center of our lives.

There are a lot of intelligent people in the world who do not possess wisdom. Again, wisdom is a way of thinking, not just amassed knowledge. Not only can I ask God to give ME wisdom, I can also pray that He would give it to those who are in positions of authority in our society. Aside from the gift of faith in Jesus for our salvation, wisdom may be the most important attribute we could have. It is the sieve through which all of our life experiences are filtered.

God's Peace!

Pastor Jim