

Do you know someone that has wisdom? What makes you think he/she has wisdom? I can think of two persons right away that I think they have wisdom. One is a president and one is a pastor. They are devoted Christians, and they made good decisions. King Solomon was named as one that has wisdom in the Bible. We are going to study wisdom and look into Solomon's life. Description on King Solomon is found in I Kings.

Book of I Kings and II Kings were used to be one book. I Kings describes the history of the people called Israelites. This book continues the story from the end of II Samuel. I Kings begins with King Solomon which was a wise king. He became rich. He later built a temple in Jerusalem. He took many women as wives. Those wives encouraged him to serve false gods when he was old. A revolution took place after King Solomon died. The country was divided. The north was called Israel and the south was called Judah. Separate kings ruled the two countries.

Wisdom is defined as applying knowledge in God's perspective and His approach to deal with situations (James 3:17). Let's look at King Solomon and study wisdom:

1) Ask God for wisdom

King Solomon asked God for wisdom. In I Kings chapter 3, Solomon asked for a discerning heart so that he would use it for God's purpose in his life. 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). Proverbs 2:6 has the same promise.

2) Hear and learn with a humble heart

One must know God and hear from God in order to receive wisdom (Prov. 19:20). The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise (Psalms 111:10). King Solomon wrote a large portion of the book of Proverbs. He wrote on Proverbs 1:5, let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance-. Listen and learn builds up one's knowledge, and knowing God's heart turns the knowledge into wisdom. King Solomon has a lot of general knowledge as shown in I Kings chapter 4. When he was close to God, he had wisdom.

3) Wisdom is demonstrated in action

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom (James 3:13). One's action reveals one's level of wisdom. An example of Solomon's wisdom was the case of dividing the baby (I Kings 3:16-28). There were two women appeared before Solomon with a dispute over a baby. Each woman claimed to be the mother of the baby. King Solomon asked for a sword to cut the baby in half. To each woman, half of the boy would be given. The mother of the child quickly spoke up, and asked for the baby to be given to the other woman. From this act of compassion, Solomon determined she was the true mother of the boy. He awarded her custody of the baby.

4) Avoid temptation

Once one has wisdom, blessings often come with it. In King Solomon's case, great wealth, power and glory came with it. It is often one begins to has less resistance to temptations when he/she has wealth, power and/or glory. Solomon began to over indulge in his wealth, and were not able to resist sexual temptation. Finally, those wrong decisions led him to worship false Gods.

5) What it often comes with?

I Kings chapter 3 described Solomon requested for wisdom. God gave him wisdom. In I Kings 3:13, it states "Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for – both wealth and honor....". Solomon was the richest man on earth. When one asked for wisdom, God will give you wisdom, and other blessings often come with it. A wise person often knows how to make decisions so that the decisions can lead to prosperity. God also stated "And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." (I Kings 3:14). You have wisdom but you still have freedom to choose. If you choose to be away from God and not to obey Him, you will still end up in destruction as King Solomon in his old age.

In summary, we all shall ask God for wisdom. Seek God with a humble heart and then act with wisdom in all matters. Avoid temptations that can lead you astray. It is a pity if someone has wisdom but ended like King Solomon.