

Karissa Harrison // November 15, 2020

The Story: Solomon

1 Kings 3:5-13 *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."*

Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.

Solomon understood the importance of discernment. His willingness to ask for it lead him to experience great wealth and honor.

You and I have not been promised wealth and honor, but we have been given the gift of **DISCERNMENT**.

1 Corinthians 2:15-16 MSG *Spiritually alive, we have access to everything God's Spirit is doing, and can't be judged by unspiritual critics. Isaiah's question, "is there anyone around who knows God's Spirit, anyone who knows what he is doing?" has been answered: Christ knows, and we have Christ's Spirit.*

Discernment is our ability to see where and how God is at work in our circumstances so that we can align ourselves with whatever God is doing.

Discernment lights the path into the **ABUNDANT LIFE** Jesus promised us.

A. Walking in discernment starts by preparing your heart.

1. Prayer of **QUIET TRUST**

a. Discernment requires a foundational trust in God's goodness and love.

b. Psalm 131

2. Prayer of **INDIFFERENCE**

a. What is my motive?

b. Am I surrendered to what God wants?

3. Prayer for **WISDOM**

a. **James 1:5** *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.*

B. If your heart is ready, and you have a potential idea, solution, or strategy...

1. Check in with your **CENTER**.

a. Are you experiencing ease or dis-ease?

2. Check in with your **CALLING**.

a. What does love require?

3. Check in with your **COMMUNITY**.

b. What do your top 5 think?