

1 Kings 3:5-12  
Romans 8:26-39

## WISDOM

The Apostle Paul clearly says in our reading from Romans that we generally don't know what to ask for when we pray.

But the Holy Spirit prays for us, knowing what we need and, among the things we may want, what God wants for us.

Paul says, "He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?"

Our generous, loving, merciful God blesses us generously every day.

It should not be hard for us to decide what to tell and ask God when we pray.

And we also need to remember that prayer is a two-way conversation so we need to listen for God's voice, too.

This reading includes one of my favorite passages;

it is rock solid in faith, and encouraging to anyone who may suffer fears or doubts:

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Wise insights and a wise teaching to God's children.

The Bible is filled with references to wisdom. Here are two:

"Do not forsake wisdom and she will protect you;

love her and she will watch over you.

Wisdom is supreme, therefore get wisdom.” (Proverbs 4:6-8a)

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure;  
then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit,  
impartial and sincere.” (James 3:17)

Speaking of wisdom, why are our back molars called wisdom teeth?

It is commonly thought that because the third molars generally appear much later than other teeth, usually between the ages of 17 and 25 when a person reaches adulthood, so they are called *wisdom* teeth because they appear this late, at an age when a person matures into adulthood and is “wiser” than when the other teeth appeared.

No, we do not lose wisdom if our wisdom teeth are extracted!

In our Old Testament reading we learn how humble the great Solomon was when God told him, “Ask what I should give you.”

Most of us grew up learning that Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived, but here we learn how he came to acquire such wisdom and the reasons he asked for it.

Solomon could have asked for riches, for fame,  
for a long and healthy life (and for God’s action against  
Solomon’s enemies).

Instead, he asks for the ability to make wise decisions,  
to rule God’s people well despite his young age and lack of experience.

He asks for the ability to tell good from evil.

God is very pleased and gives him “a wise and discerning mind”  
unlike anyone else who came before, and unlike anyone  
who will come later.

There have been and always will be leaders and rulers who abuse  
their power, to take advantage of their people,  
and who only care about their own glories and accomplishments.

King Solomon is an exceptional example to all Israel and to all history.

Let us seek wisdom every day.

Let us pray:

Wherever we are, Lord,

We know we are together, united in faithful prayer.

We are very grateful for our family of faith.

We thank you Father God, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit,

we glorify you, we worship you,

and we count on you, especially during these devastating times,  
to bless us with continuing faith and health.

Equip us always with strong faith and the right words

to adequately tell your story of salvation,

that more souls may be harvested.

And give us wisdom every day to discern good from evil.

You are our Rock and our Redeemer.

You sustain us with your never-ending love.

You encourage us to express with joy our love for you.

In your precious name we pray,

Amen.