



Wisdom Teaching



Wisdom is becoming a popular topic in our culture. There are significant differences between wisdom and knowledge.

A person can have knowledge, but not be wise. Someone said once: “Knowledge is knowing what to say. Wisdom is knowing when to say it. Wisdom is also knowing when and how to use knowledge.”

Another way of looking at these terms is this: “Knowledge may be thought of as possessing information, while wisdom can be thought of as possessing experience.”

In earlier societies, older people were typically called “elders.” They were considered to have lived long enough to become “wise,” or to have developed “a wisdom way of life.”

Our culture focuses primarily upon information and research studies. With the advent of the internet, we have vast amounts of information about almost any topic. However, our knowledge of ourselves and of wisdom living is typically very limited.

Wisdom is a deeper way of knowing. It allows us to live in harmony with the environment, the universe, ourselves, the deepest part of our being, others, and with God's love and mercy toward us.

Wisdom is often associated with the later years of a person's life, a time in which the person draws from all of the years of experience.

Dr. David Benner describes wisdom as “the capstone of both psychological and spiritual development.” He goes on to say: “Wisdom flows from seeing through the new eyes of an awakened heart and expanded consciousness.” (“Living Wisdom,” Wipf and Stock Publishers: 2019; p. 6).

Too often, in the Christian tradition, we view Creeds and beliefs as more important than anything else. This view places the emphasis upon me and my efforts, rather than upon the transforming work of God, through the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life.

St. Paul makes a significant shift for us in the twelfth chapter of Romans. “Don’t copy the behaviors and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person.” (NLT).

In other words, let us not pursue “change,” but rather seek the transforming work of the Holy Spirit to accomplish what we are incapable of doing on our own.

In my approach to soul care, spiritual direction, and counseling, there is an emphasis on wisdom, which flows from transformation, which, in turn, flows from the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom includes elements such as living in the present; detachment; surrender; trust; caring for the environment; stillness; seeing life as a spiritual pilgrimage, or journey; living from the heart, instead of the head.

Of course, there is much more which could be said about wisdom and wisdom living. If you are interested in pursuing this topic in more depth for your spiritual pilgrimage, please contact me to set up an appointment to discuss what the wisdom way of living might look like for you.