

"Holy Gifts."
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5: 15-20.

King Solomon ascended the throne of Israel upon his father David's death. And Solomon greatly desired to live a more righteous life than David had lived. David died a forgiven, better king and man after Nathan , The Prophet, had reminded him of his sins.

David then cried out: "I Have Sinned Against You, My Lord!" God, in turn, forgave David with Open, Loving Arms. The Lord was overjoyed at David's humble yet desperate mercy plea. King David then lived the rest of his days a man who lived to please God and serve the Israelites with Love and Devotion more than ever.

Solomon desired, however, not to know the grief his father had felt. He therefore strived to please God with several altar sacrifices. The Lord was greatly pleased and planned to Bless Solomon. God then asked the young king: " What Shall I Give You?" Solomon answered: "Wisdom." The Lord even more overjoyed. God knew that Solomon desired one of the Greatest Holy Gifts aside from Love: Knowledge To Live a Life of Godly Love to not repeat David's sins. The Lord then told Solomon that He would Bless the young monarch with All Wisdom with which To Bless the Israelite People with Righteousness Knowledge. No one on earth would be a Wise as the new Israelite king. Solomon honorably obliged. He went on to write his famous Proverbs which touch our hearts still with Holy Wisdom. And Solomon built the Great Temple of The Lord in Jerusalem.

God gave Solomon a Benediction-a Greek derivative word- which means "Good Words." He assured Solomon of His Plan to Bless the king with the power to Bless others with Holy Gifts: Loving Wisdom Words to Encourage More Godliness within His People and himself. Righteousness would therefore prevail in Israel.

David's Gained Wisdom from his sins likely influenced Solomon as well. King David strongly exclaimed in Psalm 111 that "Fear of The Lord was The Beginning of Wisdom." He had discovered this Holy Wisdom Gift when He Felt The Need To Humbly Cry Out To God For Mercy. It was David's way of Letting God know He Could Not Live Without God's Love and Mercy. This Wisdom was a Holy Gift David needed To Change. So did Solomon. So do All of Us.

Paul also re-emphasized the necessity for the Holy Gifts of Loving Wisdom in Ephesians. He taught that we should always give each other benedictions of Christ's Loving Words, the Psalms, and Proverbs. We All Desire Assurance That God and Saviour Are Waiting To Forgive, Strengthen, and Restore Us In Their Love. And Our Heavenly Father and Jesus Greatly Await The Opportunity! Yet we must Enlighten Others of Ways We Can Be More Christ like-More Godly. And We Become More Godly by doing so.

John Kipling, son of Rudyard Kipling, the great British author, asked his father for wisdom to successfully face the challenges of boarding school prior to leaving. The advice Kipling gave his son was made into the great 1898 poem: "If." It begins with the following:

"If You Can Keep
Your Head When
All About You Are
Losing Theirs And
Blaming It On You,
If You Can Trust
Yourself When Others
Doubt You, Yet Leave
Room For Their Doubting
Too...."

Regarded as perhaps literature's greatest benediction, it emphasizes the need to cultivate Humility, Patience, and Strength throughout Life challenges-More Loving Wisdom Words that are again Holy Gifts.

Truly, We must become More Humble, Patient, and Never Give Up. God and Jesus Christ are always this way with us. They never lose faith in making us better. Once we begin to master these Holy Gifts of Loving Wisdom That God Gives Us To Give Each Other, others will see God and Savior in Our Hearts. And we will discover even more that life is worth living as we continue experiencing God's Love in each other by sharing these Godly Wisdom Words-These Holy Gifts.

Amen.