

Power of Wisdom and Discerning My Way - August Reflection 2022

Diogenes the Greek Philosopher, so the story tells us, was lying sunning himself, when he was overshadowed by Alexander the Great, fresh back from his conquest of Asia Minor and North Africa. *"Diogenes"*, he said, *"they tell me that you are a man full of Wisdom and Discernment, I am a man of great power and wealth, ask me anything you will, and I will grant it, what do you want?"* Diogenes never moved, his eyes straight ahead, *"Please"* he said, *"the only thing I want is for you to get out of the way of the Sun."*

Diogenes did not seem to have many manners, but he was indeed a man of Wisdom and Discernment. Alexander was correct in that. We all need those things overshadowing our life journeys, to go and to be open to and aware of the need of the Spirit's gift of Wisdom, helping me, each of us, to walk a straighter path, in the light, towards God's dream and hopes for me.

Wisdom enlightens me to sense the dream of God in the World, and for me to be part of it. The virtue of Prudence enables me to choose, and discernment enables me to work out the best way of doing it and which part of it is down to me.

God like any loving parent, hopes and dreams for me to mature in my relationship with Himself, myself, others around me and beyond, so that I can become as fully as possible, that which God hoped I would be, from before all time. It is God's dream that I would work with Him in bringing about the Kingdom.

The goal of each of our lives is God and God is love, this alone in truth is what the World is constantly seeking.

God became Man, He became as we are, He came to live with us, become a pattern for us as to what Love really is. Through the gift of Wisdom, one of the gifts from the Holy Spirit, I am able to recognise what Jesus' Mission really was, why He was prepared to die for me, what through the power of His spirit he is doing today, and what part I have to play in it through the call of Baptism and fulfilled in Confirmation, which many of our Children have recently received.

Wisdom gives insight into the mind of my God. God made me a little lower than God, but higher than the angels (Ps 8). For most of my life I had ambition, to be better than those around me, to prove I wasn't the failure they seemed to see me as I wanted a safe and secure life that I controlled. Wisdom carries me on Eagle's Wings, frees me to what is possible for me. God spoke one Word and that was Jesus. He is the Truth and Wisdom of God.

Faith is about risk, its about having the rug beneath me unravelled, it's about learning that in falling and letting go, I learn how to fly and God will be there to catch me and take me on.

Jesus is my umbilical cord linked to the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit is the water in the womb I float, it is there I move and have my being. The waters of Baptism are for life, dying and rising in Christ. After his Birth Jesus went back to Nazareth and grew in wisdom and stature. Wisdom opens eyes that are closed, it highlights the need for choice, where I am, and where I could be if I responded to the grace on offer. Prudence gifts me to choose the right way. It enables me to put my money, as they say, where my mouth is. Wisdom allows me to say yes to God while prudence allows me to say no to myself. John 4 tells us that it is not every Spirit we can trust, we need to test them and see if they come from God. This is discernment. We make choices all our lives, but are we allowing God in to walk with us?

Wisdom, Discernment and Prudence bring us to learn what our lives are actually about.

Where was I before? Where am I now? Where would I long to be?

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