

Legacy

Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee. Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God.

I Chronicles 22:11-12

When we read at the beginning of II Chronicles of Solomon's response to the LORD's offer to give him whatever he asked, we may think that his request for wisdom and knowledge to lead and judge the LORD's people (II Chronicles 1:7-10) was of his own accord. But as we compare it with this expressed desire of his father David for him in our text, we understand that Solomon had been prepared for that moment a while ago. He had evidently taken in and contemplated his father's blessing and desire for him over that time. He had also witnessed David's diligent preparation of materials and worship leaders as an earnest upon which Solomon could invest and complete the magnificent place of worship. So his decision of what to ask of the LORD was highly influenced by king David. Yet, Solomon made the ultimate observation and allowed that influence to guide his choice. He had to align his desires with the correct and holy desires of his father and king. That alignment resulted in his becoming the wisest and richest king that should reign over united Israel (except of course for the King of kings to come in the final fulfillment of the Davidic covenant).

Solomon could have considered that influence and decided that he wanted something different. He could have viewed his father's desires for him as old-fashioned, or "too heavenly minded to be of earthly good." He may have contemplated a more progressive approach to reigning and worship. In fact, we know he had that proclivity, since it manifested itself later in his life, and became his downfall. Yet, for this time, he allowed his father's legacy of godly influence and experience to guide his decision, and he prospered as a result. This leads us to ask ourselves the question, what are we doing with the legacy of spiritual influence left to us? Are we honestly contemplating the value of true and tried doctrine and practice that have marked the people of God in the generations of effective believers before us? Will we continue to desire those things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, good, virtuous, and praiseworthy, as defined by the Word of God and proven by the experience of godly examples? Let us, like young Solomon, follow the right and godly influence of our spiritual forefathers, and know the favor of God.