

Freddy Davis
321 Anton Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32312
freddy.davis@capitolcom.org
850-339-2679
www.capitolcom.org/florida

How to Get a Discerning Heart

I remember when I first learned to scuba dive. I lived in Okinawa at the time and the coral reefs around the island were absolutely gorgeous with many varieties of very colorful coral and tropical fish. I had been snorkeling many times, but the thought of being able to stay down and observe that tropical paradise for a longer period was very exciting. I must say that at first I was a bit nervous. There were so many things to learn – how to breathe properly, how to time the dive to keep from getting the bends, how to manage the weights, how to properly get in and out of the water, what kinds of sea life to be careful of, and many other things. But once I learned the basics and got a few dives under my belt, it was so cool.

But then my instructor introduced a new skill – night diving. I was not so sure I wanted to do that. Added to all of the other things, we had to learn to navigate by compass, to use the underwater flashlight, and work closely with a partner. Under water at night one can become disoriented very quickly. And if the light goes out it is pitch black. It was nerve wracking at first, but I learned it and found it to be a fascinating experience.



One day a friend who liked to dive at night asked me if I wanted to go with him that evening. Since I enjoyed the sport I was glad to do it. But on that dive something happened. When we got underwater, he just took off and left me – a big no-no in night diving. I immediately surfaced, swam to shore, and went home. And, I never went diving with him again because I couldn't trust him after that. As much as I enjoyed the sport, it would have been truly stupid of me to have done otherwise. In that situation, discerning the right thing to do can save your life.

But there are many other situations in life where we need to be discerning. One important one relates to how we interact with God. When King Solomon was put in the position to become king of Israel after the passing of his father David, he was very nervous about taking on that kind of responsibility. To deal with it, he went before the Lord in prayer and asked for a discerning heart in order that he might have the wisdom to rule well. We find his prayer in 1 Kings 3:7-9.

7 "Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" NIV

The capitol is a place where important decisions are made which affect the lives of many people. Everyone working in that environment plays a part in making and carrying out these decisions. It can be daunting when choices have to be made which affect others so profoundly. Just keep in mind that God has an interest in how things work out. And because of his interest, he will give guidance to those who ask. Determine that you will make it a priority in your life to ask him for a discerning heart.