

Dear Friends,

The season of graduations is now gloriously upon us! Some schools are still working out logistics regarding commencement proceedings, but ways are being found to celebrate safely and meaningfully. No matter where one is in their schooling, we honor skills gained and knowledge attained, and we especially pay tribute to the graduates.

In addition to honoring skills and knowledge, we uplift a quality that transcends academic pursuits and that is **wisdom**.

Louise Penny is a Canadian mystery writer who enjoys great success with her novels set in the village of Three Pines in Quebec. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache – head of the police homicide detective unit – is the suave, intelligent, compassionate, case-cracking protagonist. In the first novel, he says there are four sentences that lead to wisdom. They are the ability to say: ***“I don’t know. I need help. I’m sorry. I was wrong.”***

Notice how these four admissions or confessions open our hearts and minds not only to one another, but also to an awareness of our mistakes and our limitations as they pave the way to change and growth, which ultimately leads to wisdom.

Oprah Winfrey words it this way: ***“Turn your wounds into wisdom.”*** Consequently, I am led to ask: Is it any wonder that the word “wisdom” shows up 20 times in the Book of Job?!

Wisdom is often attained as a result of living through difficult times as we gain perspective on our shortcomings as well as our strengths. Perhaps one positive aspect of the pandemic has been the insights we have acquired about ourselves, about others, about the world, and about our God.

Following the example of Inspector Gamache’s four sentences, I would like to suggest that we try answering these four questions as a starting place for recognizing and receiving wisdom. During these past 14 months, “What have I learned?” “In what ways – if any – have my values and priorities changed?” “How have my relationships changed?” “How has my faith helped me through this time?”

There are many more questions we could ask and statements we could make about our experiences during the pandemic. But let us continue to turn to God to help us gain understanding, insight, faith, and wisdom.

***“Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding.”***  
**Proverbs 3:13**

God bless,  
Jane