

Intuition Is a Fact of Life

Many years ago I read an article in the newspaper where it was reported that the Vatican was now accepting Galileo back into the church. You may remember historically when Galileo was excommunicated by the Catholic Church for determining that the earth was not the center of the universe. Now the Vatican was releasing a statement saying that it recognized that there is a role for science, but that, of course, the primary way to determine truth is still divine revelation.

What an interesting dilemma this presents. Our formal education, medicine, insurance reimbursement, and so much of what we do relies so heavily on science and research. And yet our spiritual training says that through prayer and meditation we can receive insight into all of life's concerns. "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things which you have not known." (Jeremiah 33:3.) "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9.)

Most people use prayer for insight and guidance. When people are facing difficult decisions, it is common for them to "pray on it." Whatever their religious beliefs, people look to their God or related spiritual figures for support and direction. Many in the Catholic Church pray to saints for help. Millions of people have prayed to Saint Jude, the Saint of the Impossible, when they were seriously ill, and "know" that their prayers were heard and answered.

But can you imagine your physician basing your diagnosis and treatment on some form of spiritual guidance? I've asked this question regularly in my classes. And most people are very clear that they would find it quite incredulous that their doctor would base their treatment on anything other than science. It's interesting, again, though, that all religions throughout history have used non-logical, subjective, and intuitive means to base their decisions.

In the Christian Bible and the story of the birth of Jesus, many were exuberant at the coming of what they believed to be the Son of God. Of course others, like King Herod, were not pleased, and ordered that the baby be found and killed. Then one night an angel appeared in a vision to Joseph and said that he should move the baby Jesus to Egypt for safety. And according to this biblical story, Joseph and Mary acted accordingly.

If you really stop to think about it, this is about as major a decision as anyone would ever have to make. The life or death of Jesus, when and where He should be moved, was based on a "vision." Yet two paragraphs earlier I noted that most people would have scoffed at having their medical treatment based on such a vision. How do we reconcile this? I welcome your feedback.

Excerpt from *Doctor's Orders: Go Fishing* by Dean Shrock, Ph.D.