

## X-Ray Vision

On this day in 1895, German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen made an accidental discovery that turned out to be a phenomenal advance for medicine and physics. Roentgen was investigating emissions called “cathode rays” when he noticed a glow that couldn’t be explained by the weak cathode rays. When he developed a photographic plate that had been in a desk drawer during the experiment, he found an image of a key from the desktop.

Roentgen named the discovery “X-rays,” since X stands for the unknown in science. Roentgen’s later research confirmed that X-rays pass through different materials in different degrees. His findings earned him the 1901 Nobel Prize in physics. Today, X-rays, also called “Roentgen rays,” are used in medical diagnoses and treatment, dental exams, industrial inspections of materials, and many other applications.

Some people seem to have “X-ray vision.” They are able to look past the surface of events or circumstances and see things as they really are. When God told Solomon to ask for anything he desired, the young king requested a discerning heart. God promised to give Solomon more insight and wisdom than anyone else on earth. Israel held their king in awe because of his wise rulings. People of all nations came to listen to him. The Queen of Sheba came to test Solomon with hard questions and found that nothing was too hard for him to explain.

The depth of understanding we call “discernment” may seem like a mysterious, unknown force, but it is a gift available to all believers. Proverbs 8:12 tells us that wisdom knows “where to discover knowledge and discernment.”

We will never be as wise as Solomon, but if we pursue discernment by seeking God’s wisdom, we can move past the superficial and see things we couldn’t see before.

--Beecher Hunter