

April 9, 2023

Be Teachable

by Ken Weliever

When I was a student at Florida College back in the mid to late 60's, Homer Hailey was one of my Bible professors.

Brother Hailey was known for his expertise in the Old Testament, his insight into the book of Revelation, and his ability to quote scripture, as well as his class on "The Scheme of Redemption." I can recall classes where he would fill a blackboard with scriptural references, quoting each one.

Occasionally, us "preacher boys" would become effusive in our praise and refer to Brother Hailey as a "Bible Scholar." I can remember him retorting, "Boys, I'm still a student. I'm still learning."

I thought brother Hailey was an old man, and wondered how can he still be learning? (For the record, when I began college, he was 12 years younger than I am now.)

"I'm still a student" has been in my mind through the years, reminding me to keep studying, learning and growing.

Blogger Kevin Holloran, in a fine piece on "How to Be Teachable According to Proverbs," wrote, "If there is any quality that helps in every area of life, it is being teachable."

Holloran further opined, "Being teachable is a foundational quality for everybody; workers, students, husbands, wives, and especially those in

a leadership role." I would add to that, preachers, pastors, Bible class teachers, and all Christians.

The "cliff notes" version of his post included these points:

- Be humble (Prov. 3:7-8).
- Actively seek wisdom and instruction as if your life depended on it (Prov. 4:7-9).
- Learn from the right teachers (Prov. 13:20).
- Receive correction as a blessing (Prov. 15:31).

The Bible commands us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18). In his commentary on 2 Peter, another one of my Bible professors, Clinton Hamilton, offered this insight into the word "grow."

"The force of the present imperative is to 'keep on growing' or 'keep growing' because the present imperative denotes 'continuance.'

This continuation of spiritual growth enables Christians to remain in the condition to withstand false teaching and temptations of the flesh, eye, and vainglory of life (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

The resolve to continue growing must come from the will of the individual Christian. It will not simply 'happen' by accident. Through study and application of the will of God, one can grow but these

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Gospel Meeting - Live Oak church of Christ, Kerrville, - April 21-23

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

conditions have to be present for the growth to increase.”

The person who thinks they know all it, who won't read, listen and reconsider his beliefs, becomes unteachable and will fail to grow. John Wooden, the late hall of fame basketball coach once quipped, “It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.”

The reasons why people become unteachable are varied, but here are a few common ones.

1. Pride. It's difficult for some people to admit they don't know something. I once wrote a post entitled “Three Powerful Words You Rarely Hear From Preachers.” They were: “I don't know.” You can't be prideful and teachable at the same time.

2. Laziness. Studying takes time. Learning requires effort. And thinking is challenging. We may reach a point in life where apathy and indifference replaces action and industriousness.

3. Resistance to change. It's easier to just drift along and be satisfied with the status quo. Change is often painful. Yet, as we wrote in an earlier post, Embrace Change, “Christian maturity and development requires change.”

4. Past success. Entrepreneur and speaker, David Gilliland, suggests in a blog post that the “greatest obstacle to your future success, may be your past success.” That's true not only in the business world, but spiritually as well. Too many churches, preachers and pastors are living off of past accomplishments without plans for future growth

We need to take to heart the warning of the 19th century evangelist, Phillips Brooks. “Sad will be the day for any man when he becomes absolutely contented with the life that he is living, the thoughts that he is thinking, the deeds that he is doing; until there ceases to be forever

beating at the door of his soul a desire to do something larger which he seeks and knows he was meant and made to do.”

Ask yourself, “Am I really teachable?”

John Maxwell was right when he wrote, “All the good advice in the world won't help if you don't have a teachable spirit.”

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues and will be having cataracts removed soon.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Randall Vanaman is having difficulties with his feet and has a procedure scheduled for April 21.

Doug Adair is preparing to have surgery on his back (waiting for it to be recheduled)

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is under treatment for cervical cancer that has spread.

Lynden's brother, Billy, is recovering from surgery.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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