

THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

❖ Today I want to share about the importance of having a teachable spirit

❖ We come into this world knowing nothing so the more teachable we are the more we can grow in our faith and succeed in life

❖ I will begin by looking at a number of Scriptures relating to the importance of having a teachable spirit and **GAINING GODLY WISDOM**

❖ In the book of Hosea we read,

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” (Hosea 4:6)

❖ In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.” (Proverbs 19:20)

❖ Learning from other mature believers is a great key to growing in our walk with the Lord. We can learn much from other mature believers and even unbelievers

❖ I often listen to sermons from other mature pastors and preachers to grow more in my own walk with the Lord.

- ❖ Learning from other mature Christians who have walked with the Lord for many years helps us to grow more quickly in our faith as we learn from their experiences and **THEIR OWN STUDY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

- ❖ WE MUST ALSO ALWAYS BE WILLING AND HUMBLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW OTHERS TO SPEAK INTO OUR LIFE.
We all have blind spots

- ❖ ESPECIALLY when we are emotionally caught up in things we can lose sight of what God may be saying in our circumstances and situations

- ❖ At these times receiving mature counsel from other believers can help us to avoid making wrong decisions in life

- ❖ In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)

“Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” (Proverbs 15:22)

- ❖ It is so important that when we seek counsel from others that we do not just seek advice from those who will agree with us, but from those who love us enough to speak correct counsel to us

❖ **In the book of Proverbs we read,**

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” (Proverbs 27:6)

❖ **Sometimes we need some tough love from friends who care enough about us not to see us making some disastrous choices in life**

❖ **We need to be humble enough AND OPEN TO RECEIVE CORRECTION from such friends.**

❖ **In doing so we can avoid much pain and wrong choices in life**

❖ **BEING TEACHABLE HELPS US TO LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF OTHERS AND FROM THE COUNSEL OF GODLY MENTORS – Having Godly mentors in our life is very important and helps us to develop a submitted heart**

❖ **It is a lot easier to learn from the mistakes of others than always having to learn from our own mistakes**

❖ **Being strong willed is not a problem if our will is surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. But it is a problem if our strong will prevents us from receiving counsel and correction from others**

❖ SO OFTEN IF A PERSON CANNOT RECEIVE COUNSEL AND ADVICE FROM OTHERS, THEY TOO WILL STRUGGLE TO RECEIVE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION FROM THE LORD

❖ As I was praying about this message I really felt impressed to emphasise the importance of being teachable in relation to allowing the Lord to speak into our lives and the importance of TRULY MAKING HIM LORD OF EVERY AREA OF OUR LIFE

❖ As believers it is so important to heed the counsel and direction of the Holy Spirit at ALL times and to apply the wisdom in the Word of God to our lives for a number of reasons:

1) God knows what is best for us in every situation and circumstance – He knows what we have need of in life. Jesus Himself said, “... *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*” (John 10:10)

King David wrote

“How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.” (Psalm 139:17-18)

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“This also comes from the LORD of hosts, Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance.” (Isaiah 28:29)

2) We have a very real adversary (the Devil) who is out to destroy our lives and to make our lives unfruitful (We need continually God's divine wisdom and direction to make good choices in life)

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**

3) God's ways are higher than our ways – God's plan for our life is so much bigger than what we could imagine (So how important it is that we allow Him to direct and guide our steps in life)

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” **(Isaiah 55:8-9)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” **(Ephesians 3:20)**

4) It is in following God's unique plan for our life that our lives will bear much fruit. Being in the Centre of God's will for our life is the key to experiencing the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of and to seeing our LIVES BEARING MUCH FRUIT

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” **(Ephesians 5:15-17)**

AND

5) One day we will stand before the Lord to receive our rewards for our life here on earth – How good it would be to hear the words “Well done my good and faithful servant”

WE HAVE ONE GIFT OF LIFE IN THIS BODY TO LAY UP FOR OURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Jesus Himself said,

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” **(Matthew 16:27)**

❖ **SO BEING TEACHABLE AND CONTINUALLY OPEN TO RECEIVING DIRECTION FROM THE LORD FOR OUR LIFE IS CRUCIAL IF WE ARE TO SEE *ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE COMING TO PASS***

❖ **FOUR TRAITS OF CHRISTIANS WHO ARE TEACHABLE AND SUBMITTED TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST AND WHO BEAR MUCH FRUIT IN THEIR LIVES ARE:**

1) They spend time seeking the LORD to receive guidance and direction for their lives and to know His will for their lives

In the book of Jeremiah we read,

“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?” **(Jeremiah 23:18)**

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” **(Proverbs 16:3)**

2) They CONTINUALLY rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives,

Jesus Himself said,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**

3) They are both hearers and doers of God's Word,

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” (**Matthew 7:24-25**)

And

4) They have REPENTANT hearts (They keep short accounts with God) – This is a great key to maintaining intimacy with the Lord and to consistently hearing God's voice and keeping a sensitive conscience

The Apostle John wrote,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (**1 John 1:9**)

❖ HAVING A TEACHABLE SPIRIT IS ALSO A GREAT KEY TO ENJOYING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

❖ If we are teachable and not always defensive when others say things to us we will be able to develop healthy relationships with others – HAVING GOOD FRIENDSHIPS IS A BIG PART OF LEADING A FULFILLED LIFE

❖ Humility and being teachable go hand in hand

❖ How important it is that we allow Christ to do a work of change in our hearts and lives so that we grow in HUMILITY and Christlike Character AND BECOME MORE TEACHABLE

❖ Being humble and teachable is a great key to being promoted in God's Kingdom

❖ The bible says that Moses was the most humble man on earth. God raised him up to be a great leader

❖ In the book of Numbers we read,

“(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)

(Numbers 12:3)

❖ So in conclusion, my encouragement to you today is that you would enjoy the benefits that come from developing a teachable spirit so that you would:

i) Lead a less complicated and more blessed life

ii) Avoid much unnecessary pain and suffering in your life, and

iii) That you would see all that God has planned for your life coming to pass