

THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A TEACHABLE SPIRIT



- ❑ We come into this world knowing nothing
- ❑ For this reason one great key to becoming all that God has planned for our life is to have a teachable spirit
- ❑ When God asked King Solomon what he wanted, he asked for wisdom. He knew that He needed counsel and instruction from God to be able to rule successfully over Israel.
- ❑ We see this in chapter 3 of 1 Kings

“At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask! What shall I give you?” **(1 Kings 3:5)**

In response to this invitation from God, Solomon asked that God would give him wisdom and understanding to be a successful King

We see this in the following passage of Scripture:



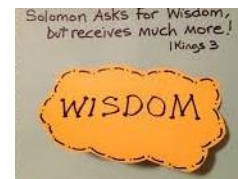
“Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.” **(1 Kings 3:7-8)**



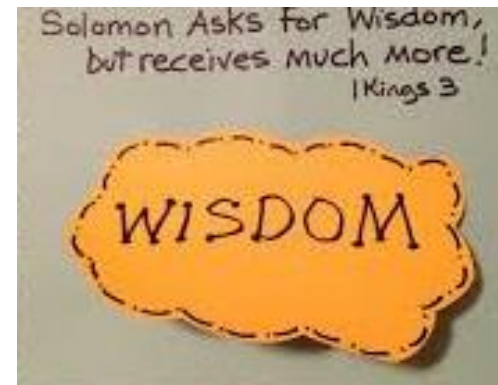
“Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours? “The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.” **(1 Kings 3:9-10)**



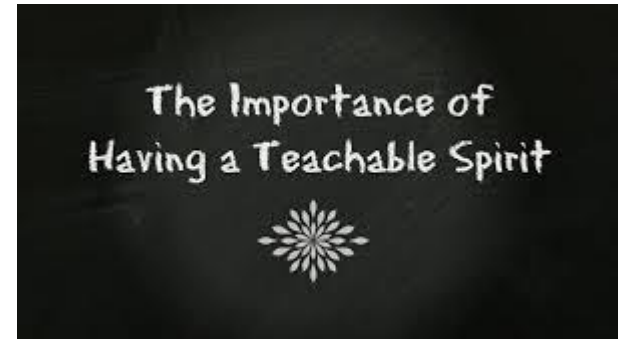
“Then God said to him: Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.” **(1 Kings 3:11-12)**



“And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honour, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.” **(1 Kings 3:13)**



- The more teachable we are in life, the more we can grow in our faith and *succeed in life*
- The bible clearly emphasises the importance of having a teachable spirit



- I will now look at a number of Scriptures that relate to the importance of having a teachable spirit and to 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)**

“He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.” **(Proverbs 15:32)**

“Cease listening to instruction, my son, And you will stray from the words of knowledge.” **(Proverbs 19:27)**

“Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge.” **(Proverbs 23:12)**



“Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.” **(Proverbs 12:1)**



“He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.” **(Proverbs 16:20)**

There are three types of people in life:

i. Those who learn from other people's mistakes



ii. Those who learn from their own mistakes, and



iii. Those who unfortunately never learn

Put another way there are people who are:

- i. Teachable**
- ii. Hard to Teach, and**
- iii. Unteachable**

Those who are hard to teach and unteachable will experience a lot of unnecessary hardship and pain in their lives because of their inability to receive any godly correction or counsel from others

How Teachable Are You?

The Answer May Surprise You!

- The outcome of our life here on earth
- The degree to which we walk in victory as a believer
- The degree to which we experience God's favour and blessing upon our lives
- The degree to which we walk in peace and experience the fullness of joy that God offers, and



- The degree to which we fulfil God's plan and purpose for our lives

ULTIMATELY DEPENDS ON THE CHOICES THAT WE MAKE IN LIFE

Having a teachable spirit helps us to make right choices in life that are in line with God's will and plan for our life



- 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. If we cannot receive counsel from others we will invariably make many poor choices in life

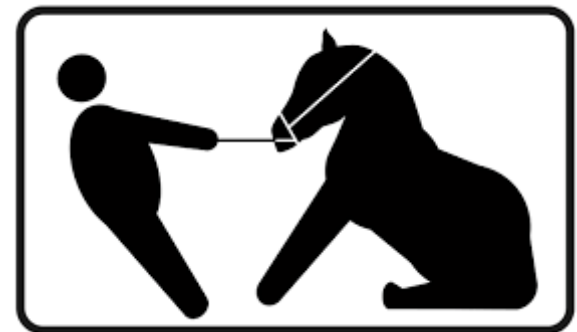


- SO OFTEN IF A PERSON CANNOT RECEIVE COUNSEL AND ADVICE FROM OTHERS, THEY TOO WILL STRUGGLE TO RECEIVE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION FROM THE LORD

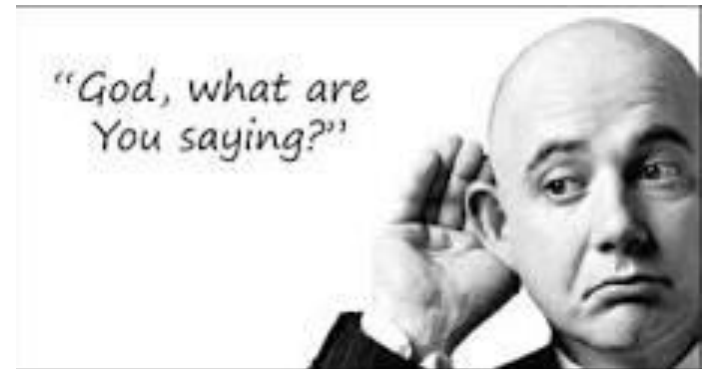
We are either in the process of resisting God's truth or in the process of being shaped and molded by his truth.

– Charles Stanley

Double Quotes
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- As I prayed 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 important to heed the counsel and direction of the Holy Spirit at ALL times and to apply God's wisdom in His Word to our own lives because:



1) God knows what is best for us in every situation and circumstance – He knows what we have need of in life at all times.

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)**

Jesus Himself said, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. **For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**



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)



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)

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)



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



Jesus Himself said,

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” (John 15:16)



- God has a unique plan and purpose for every believer's life. It is in following this plan for our life that our life makes a great difference in this world for ETERNITY.



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**)

- Knowing and following the will of God for our life is the key to our lives bearing MUCH fruit. This is why the Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of understanding what the will of God was for our life.



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“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)**

- IT IS IN FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE THAT WE EXPERIENCE GREAT PURPOSE AND MEANING OVER THE COURSE OF OUR ENTIRE LIFE

Jesus Himself said,



“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

- **TRULY GOD HAS THE BEST PLAN FOR OUR LIFE**

- Having a teachable spirit helps us to stay in the **CENTRE** of God's will for our life so that we see His hand of favour and blessing **CONTINUALLY** upon our lives and our lives bearing much eternal fruit
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**

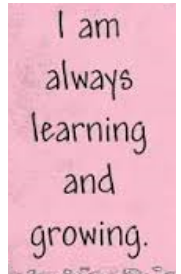
Jesus Himself said, “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” (Matthew 16:27)

Jesus Himself also emphasized the importance of living our life with eternity in mind and seeking first the Kingdom of God (*Matthew 6:33*)

Jesus Himself said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (**Matthew 6:19-21**)



- **SO BEING TEACHABLE AND 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***



- **I will finish by looking at five traits of Christians who are teachable and submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and who as a result invariably bear much fruit in their lives.**

Jesus Himself said, “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit...” (John 15:8)

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)

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)**

AND



5) They are prepared to have GODLY people speaking into their lives and are willing to accept correction from others who have their best interests at heart – It is good for all Christians to have Godly mentors in their life



In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.” (Proverbs 9:9)

- **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 lovingly speak correction into our lives, we will be more readily 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 choose to have a teachable spirit so that you would:



- 1) Lead a less complicated and more blessed life
- 2) Avoid much unnecessary pain and suffering in your life, and
- 3) So that you would see all that God has planned for your life coming to pass and your life making a great impact in this world for eternity